

More questioned following swoops by officers

TERROR ARRESTS PAIR CHARGED

Report by Jack Averty

TWO Walsall men arrested on suspicion of Syria-related terrorism offences have appeared in court.

Mohammed Iqbal Hussain, aged 23, from Castle Road, Walsall, has been charged with four counts of funding terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Mohamed Suyabur Rohaman, 32, of the same address, has been charged with one count of funding terrorism. They were both arrested on January 12.

Both appeared before Westminster Magistrates Court earlier this week and a date is due to be set for a further hearing.

Two other men arrested by counter terrorism officers in Walsall on January 14 on suspicion of Syria-related terrorism offences have been released on police bail until April pending further inquiries.

The latest arrests were made as police carried out a number of raids at different addresses across the borough.

A home in Earl Street, Palfrey was searched by officers but West Midlands Police declined to name any others. They also refused to say where the two 26-year-olds were arrested from.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page confirmed the men have been released on bail.

Suspicion

The force moved to reassure members of the public, stating the arrests were intelligence-led and there was no immediate threat to public safety in a statement: "Officers from the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit have arrested a further two people in Walsall on suspicion of Syria related terrorism offences.

"The two men are from the Walsall area. The offences under investigation are all related to terrorism activity connected to Syria. The arrests are part of an on-going operation.

"Officers carried out searches at a number of addresses in the Walsall area associated with the suspects. The arrests were intelligence led and there was no immediate threat to public safety."

People living in Earl Street said they were concerned by the arrests.

One neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: "It does concern me. We've had nothing like that on this street before. It's very quiet and we have no problems.

"We're a close community around here. Everybody knows each other."

Speaking about the family who lived in the property that was raided by police in Earl Street, the neighbour added: "They were a family but we didn't see much of them."

TOWN HONOURS ITS LADY OF THE LAMP, DORA



Laying floral tributes, at the Sister Dora statue, Walsall, is the mayor of Walsall Angela Underhill

WALSALL'S answer to Florence Nightingale was honoured at a remembrance service in the town.

Nearly 100 residents marked the life of Sister Dora at St Paul's Church at a moving ceremony.

The annual service of thanksgiving including hymns and prayers was led by Rev Mark Kinder, who is the vicar at the church.

Afterwards, there was a procession to the statue of Sister Dora on The Bridge and flowers and wreaths were laid.

During the service, Sue Weller, Archdeacon of Walsall, said Sister Dora – who has been called Walsall's Lady of the Lamp – 'gave selflessly to others' throughout her life.

"She devoted her life to nursing and healing," she said.

Speaking afterwards the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill, said the service honouring Sister Dora was one of the most important dates in the town's calendar.

Hope

Councillor Underhill said: "It's important we have these annual services because Sister Dora is probably one person the majority of people in Walsall know. We need to honour her memory.

I think she is somebody who gives hope to people."

Sister Dora, born Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison, was born in Yorkshire in 1832 and arrived in Walsall in January 1865. She was a 19th-century Church of England nun and a nurse.

In 1875, the area was hit by smallpox and a dedicated epidemic hospital was set up in Hospital Street, Birchills, where she cared for poorly residents for six months, putting her own life at risk.

She also cared for victims of the Birchills explosion in 1875.

Sister Dora died on Christmas Eve in 1878, aged 46.

TRANSPORT

Talks due on removal of bus lane in town

A PETITION calling for the removal of a controversial bus lane will be discussed by council bosses today, Thursday.

The petition, launched by Bloxwich councillor Shaun Fitzpatrick, is asking that the lane in Bloxwich High Street is removed and has been supported by 1,158 people across three different petitions.

The petitions follow complaints about a traffic enforcement camera put in place on September 22, with people claiming it was catching drivers out unfairly.

Council chiefs said the camera had been installed following complaints from bus companies about obstructions on the bus lane.

ENVIRONMENT

Agency says spill caused no danger

A CORROSIVE acid spillage at a factory in Willenhall caused no visible harm to wildlife, according to the Environment Agency.

A 35-ton tank holding hydrochloric acid collapsed at Edward Howells Galvanizers on Thursday, leaking 35,000 litres at the site. Some acid found its way into the factory's drainage network which then feeds into a brook.

Agency spokesman Hannah Anni-son-French said: "We sent two officers out on Saturday to take samples. They showed PH levels downstream that were very close to normal."

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HIGHWAYS

Government urged to take action on ad sign

THE Government has been approached to stop a huge advertising sign being built in the Black Country over safety fears.

The Alliance of British Drivers said the 27ft-high electronic advertising board at the junction of the M5 and M6 could distract drivers and cause crashes. The screen will be placed on greenbelt land off Ray Hall Lane between West Bromwich and Great Barr, reaching up to 60ft off the ground.

Brian Gregory, alliance chairman, said the whole group was shocked the Highways Agency had raised no objections.

INSIDE

WITCH WAY FOR JACK IN PANTO?



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Factory cleared as acid tank collapses



Emergency services on site

A FACTORY housing 40 workers had to be evacuated after a tank holding 35,000 litres of corrosive acid collapsed.

Acid spewed from the tank outside Edward Howell Galvanizers in Watery Lane, Willenhall, and some of it ended up spilling into a nearby brook, although no-one was injured in the spillage, the emergency services confirmed.

But people in nearby buildings were told to stay inside and to keep doors and windows closed due to the nature of the liquid inside the tank.

The Edward Howell Galvanizers fac-

tory was evacuated last Thursday at around 8.45am and the building was immediately cordoned off.

Firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service made the area safe and worked alongside staff from the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water who succeeded to prevent the acid entering local water systems.

But they were unable to stop it getting in to the brook.

Fire service station commander, Steve Horley, said: "Crews are working hard to restrict the flow from the outlet

into the brook, which then feeds into the River Tame.

"Once it has been stopped we will then look at getting rid of the acid from the water, either through the drainage network or slowly dispersing it in a controlled manner." The cause of the collapsed tank is not yet known.

Severn Trent Water spokeswoman Grace Marren said: "We're working with the fire service and the Environment Agency to investigate if the acid spill has entered our sewer pipes through drains in the area."

Three escape with dog as blaze hits house

THREE people and a dog were evacuated from a large house fire in Walsall which has left the home 'severely damaged'.

All three people and the pet escaped injury in the blaze on Elmstead Close. Crews were called to the scene around 5pm on Monday.

Six fire engines descended on the residential street and firefighters in breathing apparatus entered the property to tackle the flames, which were extinguished within 15 minutes.

It is suspected the blaze originated from the ground floor but fire investigators are yet to determine the cause.

Both the ground and first floors were badly damaged, but firefighters managed to douse the flames in time to stop them spreading to neighbouring homes.

Watch commander Kevin Eaves, from Sutton Coldfield fire station, said: "Initial crews immediately requested additional resources due to the severity of the fire we were dealing with.

Precautionary

"The property was heavily involved in fire. Breathing apparatus crews quickly attended to begin extinguishing the flames.

"Three people were in there, all adults, none were injured they just suffered from shock.

"They were given precautionary checks by paramedics.

"There was one dog in there which survived as well.

"Firefighters adopted a 'safe but assertive' fire attack. They extinguished the fire after 10 to 15 minutes."

He added: "The house has been severely damaged. Firefighters are still on site damping down and ensuring there are no pockets of fire.

"Investigators will confirm the cause in the next couple of days. It was lucky no-one was injured in the incident.

"The actions of the fire crews stopped the fire from spreading. At its height, the flames could be seen through the windows."

Nearby resident Roger Haigh, aged 72, said: "It is very sad. I am just relieved no-one was hurt.

"There are quite a few appliances here, the fire must have really taken hold."

Scale of £76m rail revamp revealed



An image from the 1930s shows the work going into the £76 million electrification scheme of hidden railway tracks

THIS image from the 1930s shows the scale of work being carried out as part of a £76 million railway electrification scheme in Walsall town centre.

The photograph reveals the tracks at Park Street, hidden underground for years and now being improved to boost services between Walsall and Rugeley.

Network Rail is carrying out the work in the town centre, opposite Marks & Spencer and New Look, which is the cause of a gaping hole

outside the shops at present. The old photograph shows how far below the surface the tracks lie, proving workers have no choice but to dig deep when it comes to carrying out the improvements, which should also make the route more environmentally-friendly.

Following years of planning the first phase of the work took place before Christmas with the demolition and replacement of half of the bridge on the station side over seven weeks. The second phase

started over the weekend on the opposite side of the High Street with pedestrians still able to access the bridge and shops.

Matt Brown, scheme project manager for Network Rail, said: "Technically this is relatively straightforward, but logistically it's the most complicated bridge I've ever had to deal with because it's right in the middle of the town centre. We have made sure the key stakeholders are on board with the scheme.

Traffic fears pointed out for new Aldi store plans

TRAFFIC problems was a major talking point at a public consultation into Aldi's plans to build a new supermarket in Great Barr.

Concerns were put forward by residents about increased traffic congestion on the roundabout which links Queslett Road, Beacon Road and Aldridge Road.

The discount shop will be built off Old Horns Crescent near to Asda, creating around 40 jobs. Shaun Broadley, aged 44 of Hillingford Avenue, said at the consultation event, at Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre on Thursday: "Traffic is already jam packed down at the island so I am naturally concerned building another food store there is just going to add to the problem. They do really need to seriously consider the road layout and whether it is feasible. It could end up being murder trying to drive through there on a weekend."

Valeria Pittam, aged 78, who lives on Constable Close, was all for a new Aldi being built and said she believed it would bring healthy supermarket competition.

She said: "I can't wait for it to hopefully be approved and start being built. Asda needs some competition in price and Aldi will certainly do that."

Perry Barr MP Khalid Mahmood, councillors Keith Linnecor and Adrian Andrew along with Aldi property director Ciaran Aldridge were present to listen to residents' feedback. Mr Aldridge said: "We would like to thank the local community for taking part in our consultation. It is important that we know what local people think of our plans."

Funeral date is set for ex-mayor

A DATE has been announced for the funeral of former councillor and mayor Bill Madeley MBE. The long-serving Darlaston councillor and former mayor died earlier this month aged 82 after a battle with liver cancer.

His funeral will take place on Tuesday, at 10.15am at Emmanuel Church in Cairn Road, Bentley in Walsall.

Mr Madeley was first elected as a Labour councillor in May 13, 1971 to represent the Bentley ward, which later became Bentley and Darlaston North.

He went on to become mayor in 1988, deputy leader of the council in 1997 and then took on the role of leader of the council from January to May 1999.

He was awarded his MBE in 2006 and was admitted as Honorary Freeman of the Borough back in 2010.

MEPs quizzed on research funding

UNIVERSITY of Wolverhampton staff travelled to Brussels to quiz West Midlands MEPs on research funding. Thirteen staff spent three days in the Belgium capital. MEPs Daniel Dalton and Anthea McIntyre were also quizzed on the forthcoming EU referendum.

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Guards get training on dementia sufferers

SECURITY guards at a Walsall hospital have completed a training programme designed to help increase their understanding of how to deal with patients with dementia.

Guards at the Manor Hospital are often called out to support other members of staff in dealing with patients who display aggressive behaviour due to their conditions, including dementia.

This prompted bosses at the hospital to decide that training security staff in how to communicate better with patients suffering from dementia would be beneficial. The team learnt about the 'dementia mind' and perception, in order to help break down communication barriers with patients during a one-day training session.

Neil Dickinson, Security Supervisor said: "The training was well-received by all the team, who were more than happy to get involved. Since then, we have all noticed a positive change in our way of working, particularly with older patients. We work closely with the Older People's Mental Health Liaison Team, are able to pick up on unusual behaviour which may be a cause for concern and inform them so that help can be arranged."

The training has also made the guards more aware of their surroundings, emotions and the need for empathy towards a patient who has dementia and who may be confused.

They are now able to put themselves in the mind-set of the person they are dealing with to help treat them appropriately.

300 sign petition over chapel plan

AROUND 300 people have opposed plans to turn a former chapel into new homes over concerns future tenants may increase crime in the area. A proposal was submitted to Walsall Council in November to convert the building at New Road in Willenhall.

But the fact a warden will also be staying on the site has prompted fears about what type of residents the properties will accommodate.

Councillor Diane Coughlan, who represents the ward, handed a 300-signature petition into the council earlier this week. She said: "It is an eyesore at the moment. A lot of the residents who live nearby are concerned about it." The council has provisionally aimed to reach a decision on the latest proposal by February.

Police base one of first to close

THE police base in Hamstead Road, Great Barr will be among the first in the Black Country to close on January 31 as part of £8.6 million cuts. West Midlands Police is shutting 28 stations in total.

Different strokes of art at gallery



Laura Lancaster's work

A PAIR of renowned artists are gracing Walsall's New Art Gallery with their works from the end of this month.

Belgian painter and poet Jan Vanriet will be staging an exhibition called I The Music Boy from January 29 to May 8 and during the same period, Hartlepool artist Laura Lancaster will be displaying her works.

Vanriet's exhibition of 30 oil paintings on canvas is the artist's first in the United Kingdom.

A 104-page hardback, illustrated catalogue featuring essays by Andrew Graham-Dixon and Martin Herbert, as well as a foreword by Charlotte Mullins will be

available. The exhibition is titled after a quadriptych of paintings depicting the artist's grandmother and his uncle playing an accordion. Born in Antwerp in 1948, Jan lives and works in the city with his wife, the author Simone Lenaerts. He is a pivotal figure in the world of contemporary narrative painting.

In contrast, Laura Lancaster is a painter who draws inspiration from forgotten and discarded photographs and home movies, found in flea markets, charity shops and through ebay. Once precious and significant to someone, they are now detached from their original contexts and

instead, they become animated through Laura's luscious, gestural and expressive application of paint.

This exhibition will bring together a variety of the artist's works including older works such as works on paper, as well as new large scale diptychs and a 24 frame piece.

A recent preoccupation for the artist, has been stills sourced from found super 8mm film. The images paired together in the large diptychs are drawn from the very first and last frames of found home movies. Born in 1979 and she lives and works in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



A Jan Vanriet piece

New setback over M6 roadworks finish date

A LONG-AWAITED completion date for roadworks on the M6 has been thrown into doubt after highways bosses refused to provide an update on the scheme finishing.

Work on the motorway between junctions 10a for the M54 and 13 for Stafford was supposed to finish at the end of this month, but Highways England will not comment on if they are still on track, or when the work will be completed.

The scheme, which has imposed a 50mph speed limit on the stretch since October 2013, was due to be finished at the end of December but was pushed back to this month.

Now Highways England say they will not announce the completion date until all the technology is in place. A web page on the scheme says will be complete in 'early 2016'.

Alistair Harris, a spokesman for Highways England, said: "We are working towards opening this section of the motorway. We are making sure that all the technology required to operate the system is in place. We will be able to confirm our date once this work has been completed."

Problems

Mr Harris added that the work had not been affected by the recent poor weather. He said: "We haven't had any problems because of the weather so far."

The roadworks run right alongside South Staffordshire and have led Councillor Brian Edwards, the leader of South Staffordshire council, to brand the delays a 'nuisance' and 'frustrating'. He said: "We have had roadworks between junctions nine and 10 for a long time already. These latest delays are disappointing, especially as they can't tell us when they will finish."

The mystery over the finishing date could be another headache for thousands of motorists who have been slapped with £100 fines since the scheme began.

Figures obtained by the Freedom of Information revealed that on average more than 450 drivers a month were caught breaking the temporary speed limit. An estimated 120,000 vehicles a day travel between junctions 10a and 13 and the work being carried out is designed to alleviate congestion.

It's back to school for minister



Schools minister Nick Gibb seen with nursery youngsters during his visit to St Martin's Cof E, Bilston

SCHOOLS minister Nick Gibb hailed the success of a revolutionary maths programme when he visited schools in the Black Country. Mr Gibb visited St Martin's C of E Primary School in Wallace Road, Bilston, and the Joseph Leckie Academy and the Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy, both in Walsall.

At St Martin's the minister spent time in classes to see the school's Maths Makes Sense pro-

gramme in action. It was launched in 2009 when achievement in the subject at the school was low, and focuses on teaching maths using solid objects.

Now St Martin's boasts some of the best maths results in the city, despite sitting in a deprived area with 58 per cent of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Mr Gibb said he was 'very impressed' with what he saw, and said he was pleased to see pupils

displaying a 'deep understanding' of complex maths problems.

"The maths ability here is very advanced from all of the year groups I have seen," said Mr Gibb.

"It is clear there's a deep understanding of every element."

Mr Gibb spent time at Joseph Leckie Academy after he was invited by Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz. She was keen for the minister to see the state of disrepair of the school's main teaching block."

NEWS IN BRIEF

£10 accumulator wins £245,000

IT'S the stuff dreams are made of when it comes to betting – a £10 accumulator that raked in a staggering £245,000.

The lucky punter went 'through the card' at Wolverhampton's Dunstall Park, predicting all seven winners in a day. The unnamed 34-year-old mechanic bet on a 'win accumulator' which required all the selections to come first in their race.

Remarkably all seven horses were first over the line in the meeting with a nail-biting photo finish in the final race to secure his big win.

Service to mark Holocaust Day

THE Mayor of Sandwell will be leading a Holocaust Memorial service on Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend the commemoration which starts at 10.30am at Highfields Memorial Garden, off High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RJ.

The service, led by Mayor Councillor Barbara Price, will be in memory of the millions of victims of genocide.

It's being held on the nearest Sunday to Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January. For more information about Sandwell's commemoration service, contact 0121 569 3440.

Pizza parlour is up and running

A NEW Pizza Express restaurant has opened in Walsall creating 30 new jobs in the process.

The restaurant at the Waterfront, which opened on Wednesday, January 13, can seat 190 people and includes eight specially trained pizza makers and 15 waiters and waitresses.

Artwork at the new restaurant has been inspired by the Walsall Illuminations, a festival of light which dates back to 1875 when candles were placed in coloured jars.

Seven-mile country ramble for group

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be setting off on a seven and a half mile hike this Sunday.

Members will be taking a circular route to Bishops Wood, near Brewwood.

Boscobel and About is described as an easy walk over fields and lanes to Belvide Reservoir and back via Boscobel House.

Newcomers are always welcome and more information is able from 01922 631404 or the website www.walsallramblers.co.uk

Search for relatives

WALSALL health bosses have made a plea for the potential family of a patient, Kenneth Rogers, to come forward.

Mr Rogers, of Walsall, was born in 1948. If you are related, please contact Julie Venables at Walsall Manor Hospital on 01922 656207.

FOODELICIOUS

SUNDAY DINING

BREAKFAST:

Please see our Facebook page
Teresa Mincher for menu

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



BACK in the days of churchgoing, assemblies, sing-songs in the pub and sea shanties around the school piano, we learned how to hold a tune in our heads. The Brits could sing. This week, in the massive media overkill that marked David Bowie's passing, some TV and radio reporters invited members of the public to sing their favourite Bowie hits. And what a dire, off-key caterwauling ensued. What a tuneless nation we have become.

A SURVEY of grass-roots Labour supporters reveals the party has grown, moved to the Left and thinks its new leader is great. I'm not sure if this tells us anything except that Jeremy Corbyn has a lot of support – among his supporters.

A READER points out that although the immensely entertaining Dickensian (BBC1) is set in the deep mid-winter with snow crunching under foot, no-one has frosted breath.

THANKS for all your items on the subject of chucking out a favourite pair of old shoes. Most were funny tales. And then suddenly this: "In 1971 I bought new black shoes to walk my wife-to-be down the aisle. Forty years later, in 2011, after much wear, repair and polishing, I wore the same shoes to walk her coffin again down the aisle. You can't put a price on all the memories a much-loved pair of shoes can hold."

A READER tells me he phoned his local radio station to be told he was the first caller of the day and thus qualified for the mystery grand prize, if he could answer one simple maths question. By chance, he has a degree in mathematics. The prize was two front-row seats at a Justin Bieber concert. The crucial question – what is two plus two? Without a moment's hesitation he replied: "Potato." I'm not sure I believe a word of it, but I never entirely dismiss the conspiracy theory that the chief purpose of local radio is to rot the nation's brains.

WHY do some doctors have such a downer on booze? One suggestion this week came from health writer Tony Edwards. He says some research suggests moderate drinkers are less likely to suffer from a wide range of diseases. But as he puts it: "The job of doctors is to help sick people rather than healthy ones, so they inevitably see the casualties of alcohol, never its beneficiaries." So most doctors will see alcoholics dying of liver disease while never meeting the moderate drinker who enjoys a glass of wine a day and, inexplicably, never catches a cold.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Jogging call to help target obesity

PEOPLE in Walsall are being encouraged to take up jogging to stay fit and healthy, as the council looks to tackle the town's obesity crisis. As revealed last week, more than two thirds of people living in the town are either overweight or obese. Now, in attempt to tackle the situation, Walsall Council's Sport and Leisure Services team has launched an initiative called 'Jog Walsall'.

The new programme is aimed at beginners and people who want to get back into exercise or looking to improve their fitness levels. The team also say that the initiative is 'ideal' for anyone training for any 5k or 10k runs. There are currently two sessions that take place on a weekly basis at Walsall Arboretum on Mondays at 12.30pm and the University of Wolverhampton on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. All jogs are free and will be led by qualified running and fitness instructors.

Stuart Terry, Walsall Council's community activity co-ordinator, said: "Jogging is one of the best forms of exercise you can do and is something people can easily get involved in." Full details of the programme, as well as how to participate, are available by calling sport and leisure development services on 01922 658080.

As shocking figures from Public Health England revealed, 68.9 per cent of the borough's population are carrying excess weight which is more than five per cent higher than the national average. On top of this, the PHE figures also revealed that 30 per cent of adults and 24 per cent of children in Walsall are obese.

Council owed nearly £1m in unpaid tax

By Jack Averty

CASH-STRAPPED Walsall Council is owed nearly £1 million in unpaid council tax, it has been revealed.

The debt dates back to April 2015 when the council introduced a controversial flat 25 per cent rate of council tax for every household in the borough.

Residents on low income in the borough previously received a full council tax discount but this was reduced to a maximum of 75 per cent by the then-ruling Labour group – meaning a bill of around £20 a month.

Three months later it was revealed that already 6,600 of 19,465 low income households were in arrears and some £343,000 was owed to the council.

Now, six months later, the figure has spiralled to £820,000 and will be more than £1m at its current rate by the end of the financial year.

Councillor Pete Smith, who represents the Blakenall ward, obtained the figures after he posed the question to council leader Councillor Mike Bird at a council meeting.

Predictable

He said: "It was obvious from the start that many of these people, already hit by other cuts and extra charges like bedroom tax, would not be able to afford these new charges. The news that £820,000 is now owed was predictable. By the time the financial year ends, the debt will be over £1million.

"What we're doing is putting more people in arrears which will mean more letters going out and more bureaucracy. The only crumb of comfort is that having sought an assurance from the Leader of the Council, he said he has no intention of raising the contribution from these 19,000 low income households over 25 per cent."

But Councillor Mohammed Arif, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for shared services and procurement, said that the arrears make up less than one per cent of the total collected each year.

Group Jacks up panto with technology



Essential Productions' cast for Jack and the Beanstalk. Front middle is Jack, Harry Rowland, then from left,

CHRISTMAS may have passed but a Willenhall-based theatre company hopes to bring some hi-tech seasonal fun to crowds from tomorrow with three performances.

Essential Productions, a group of semi-professional stage performers, will take to the stage at the Bookmark Theatre in Bloxwich tomorrow, Friday, with two more shows on Saturday, a matinee and an evening slot.

Company director Alex Rigby-Bishop has assembled 12 of the best singers, dancers and actors available for the group's take on Jack and the Beanstalk.

He said: "We have been performing our pantomime shows at the Bookmark regularly over the last few years and they seem to be growing in popularity all of the time." Essential Productions was founded in February

2010 by Mark Rigby-Bishop and Alexander Rigby-Bishop as a semi professional theatre company for YETGA Theatre School, producing original feature length musicals performing at large scale venues, such as the Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock, within the West Midlands.

Director Alex remained tight-lipped on what audiences can expect but did say technology would play a big part in this year's show. He said: "We have always tried to use technology in our shows and this year all of the big pantomimes have really gone for it in terms of technology. We have followed suit."

Tickets costing £8 or £6 for concessions can be purchased from the Essential Productions box office either on 077805 24915 or by visiting ticketsource.co.uk/etga

Worker is suspended as failings are upheld

A SOCIAL worker who failed to ensure the safety of a vulnerable child has been suspended for nine months for misconduct.

Walsall Council employee Barbara McEvoy was found culpable of numerous failings by the Health Care & Professions Council (HCPC). She served as a team manager within the council's Children's Initial Response Services.

But she was dismissed after a disciplinary investigation into allegations she had failed to ensure the safety of a vulnerable child. It was launched after another council expressed concerns the authority had not responded appropriately to a request for child protection information in a case.

She successfully appealed her sacking, but a panel from the HCPC Conduct and Competence Committee, which revisited the case, decided to suspend her from the HCPC register for nine months on grounds of misconduct.

In giving his decision, the chair of the panel Brian Wroe, said: "The panel considers that Miss McEvoy's misconduct is serious and her failings were significant."

"A vulnerable service user suffered real and significant harm, which could be said to be contributed by Miss McEvoy's failure to act to secure timely interventions in her case."

Rebekah Tailor, a spokesman for HCPC, added: "The panel concluded that a suspension order was appropriate." Miss McEvoy was not present or represented at the HCPC's hearing.

Motivation from blind speaker

STUDENTS in a Darlaston academy school have been challenged to overcome their obstacles by blind motivational speaker and author John Flanner MBE.

More than 110 Year 11 students at Grace Academy Darlaston listened to Mr Flanner as part of an Excellence Training Day. He explained the fears and mishaps he experienced on the road to success after becoming blind at 19, including falling down a manhole and missing the platform while getting off a train.

Mr Flanner worked in a typing pool for many years before, at 57, becoming a motivational speaker on equality and diversity issues.

Kieran Hale, one of the year 11 student who heard Mr Flanner's talk, said: "It was inspirational."

Keaton classic's charity screening

A CLASSIC Buster Keaton silent movie is being shown in Birmingham to raise funds for the charity Hearings Dogs for Deaf People. Steamboat Bill Junior, made in 1928, will be screened at the Electric Cinema in Station Street on Sunday, at noon.

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Electronic ads board will go up near M-way

A 27ft HIGH electronic advertising board will be built at the junction of the M5 and M6 in the Black Country, after councillors gave it the go-ahead.

The 24ft wide LED screen will be placed between West Bromwich and Great Barr, reaching up to 60ft off the ground.

The plans for greenbelt land off Ray Hall Lane were approved by a majority vote during a Sandwell Council meeting despite opposition from residents and some councillors.

There had been 11 objections for it, including reasons such as being out of character with the area, potentially distracting drivers, poor design and the impact they could have on wildlife.

Councillor Paul Moore, speaking during the meeting, said: "This would be built on the greenbelt but in an area of poor quality land next to the motorway."

Charlemont councillor Liam Preece, who had been strongly opposed the plans, said he thought the idea would be bad for residents, the environment and would seriously affect the safety of drivers on the M5 and M6 motorways. He questioned whether the council had looked at any alternative pieces of land where the advertising board could be placed.

Councillor Moore said the council had looked a numerous sites but felt the proposed area would be the best position.

He said: "The decision simply depends on whether we should depart from planning policy or not."

Bus lane cameras result in £296k

BUS lane cameras in Walsall have made the council £296,000 in fines since April. The cameras have hit motorists in Walsall hard since they were brought in to catch out motorists illegally using the lanes.

It has been revealed that approximately 77 per cent of bus lane fines dished out were actually paid and £296,000 has been received from fines in this financial year so far.

Councillor Smith said: "I hope this information puts motorists on their guard. I think people will be surprised just how much money these cameras are netting. I also believe that the cameras should be no more than temporary deterrents and not left there with the primary intention of raising extra cash."

Landmark site to go under hammer

THE landmark three-storey Soho Hill Centre in Birmingham is to be sold at auction at the Holte Suite at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground on Thursday, February 25 at 11am with a guide price of £245,000 to £295,000.

Poundland boss tells of teacher snub



Jim McCarthy in his doctorate robes

THE boss of Poundland revealed that teachers said he would never make anything of his life, as he picked up a top university honour.

Jim McCarthy was awarded an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University recognising his outstanding achievements in business, during a ceremony held at the city's Symphony Hall last Monday.

Mr McCarthy's career spans 40 years, including 10 as chief executive of operations for Willenhall-based Poundland, but said his headteacher had low expectations for him after

leaving school before finishing his A-levels. "I decided to leave St Philip's, Birmingham, at the age of 17, part way through my A-levels with the words of the headmaster ringing in my ears. 'McCarthy, you will never make anything of your life.'"

Mr McCarthy grew up in Birmingham and has also worked for businesses including Next, where he was managing director of neighbourhood retailing and the Birmingham Post and Mail, where he served as managing director of their retail estate. He took the role of chief executive at

Poundland in 2006 and recently oversaw its acquisition of 250 99p Stores.

Speaking on receiving his doctorate, Mr McCarthy said: "I thank all those who selected me for this honour. To say I'm flattered and delighted would be a significant understatement, I am very grateful and immensely proud."

"Of course it is a regret that remains with me to this day, that I did not go to university."

"It seems to me that it is now more important than ever, to maximise your potential with the significant benefit of a university education."

Car salesman allowed to sell from greenbelt

A CAR salesman will be allowed to continue trading on greenbelt land – despite never getting planning permission to use the plot in the first place.

Councillors in Walsall gave the go-ahead despite being recommended to throw the application out.

Steven Morris had already been selling cars from his plot on Sunnyside Farm in Walsall Wood for five years, and asked permission to continue for another five.

But not only is the land greenbelt, Mr Morris did not have planning permission in the first place – though he insisted that he did not know there was no permission in place when he acquired the plot.

These circumstances led planning officers to recommend to Walsall Council's planning committee that the application be rejected.

However councillors went against this and approved it. Councillors pointed out that the Taylor family owned land on Sunnyside Farm, despite all being marked as greenbelt, which has effectively become an industrial estate and that Mr Morris's application would not make a difference.

Defence

Businesses at the farm include a body shop, kitchenware shop and a mechanic's.

Council leader Mike Bird, who is also the vice-chairman of the planning committee, led the defence of Mr Morris.

He said: "This site has been a pain in the backside for 30 years."

"If you look at that site and say it's greenbelt then I don't agree with you. The request is reasonable and if Mr Morris wants this site for five more years than it's a yes from me."

Officers pointed out that there has to be special circumstances for greenbelt land to be built on, such as the need for a care home or a school, and this application did not have that and that's why they had recommended it be rejected.

But councillor Bird added: "The special circumstances is that this application won't make a blind bit of difference."

Also in support of the application was Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul.

He said: "We might as well face it that this land is not green belt anymore, it's an industrial estate. I can see no reason why we shouldn't support the application."

Mencap joy with Vodafone cash



Luke Rogers of Vodafone, Dave Rogers and Kate Salter, of Mencap and store manager, Claire Allbutt

MEMBERS of local charity Midland Mencap are celebrating after receiving £1,000 from Vodafone UK.

Midland Mencap collected the Vodafone Community Connection Award after staff in its Walsall store chose the deserving cause.

Thanks to the £1,000 award, the charity, which is run by David Rogers, will continue its work in supporting local families and individuals experiencing learning

disabilities. This support includes everything from home-based care and short break respite services, to helping individuals enjoy social and leisure activities as well as attend college or work placements.

Kate Salter, Office and Facilities Manager, entered Midland Mencap for the award and said: "Midland Mencap is setting up a new Autism Library at the Walsall Disability Hub for people with autism and their families. We are

delighted to receive this award which will go towards purchasing additional equipment and apps."

Vodafone's Community Connection Awards, launched in 2014, have already made a difference to more than 60 local communities across the UK. Claire Allbutt, Vodafone store manager in Walsall said "Midland Mencap couldn't be a more worthy and deserving winner, their work truly makes a difference to the people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schools forced to close down

TWO primary schools in Walsall shut for the day – with one sending pupils home due to a suspected gas leak.

Walsall Council confirmed that Salisbury Primary School in Salisbury Street and Old Church CE primary school in School Street had closed. At Salisbury Primary School, the children were sent home due to a suspected gas leak, although the school reopened last Thursday.

Old Church Primary School closed due to water supply problems which left the school with no toilet facilities, no heating and no kitchen facilities.

Black smoke in blaze-hit flat

A FLAT was filled with black smoke and two people were injured after a dehumidifier caught fire in Bloxwich at around 4.20am last Wednesday.

Two people were treated for smoke inhalation but were not seriously injured.

The extent of the damage to the ground floor flat on The Green is unknown, but Bloxwich fire described it as 'severe'.

West Midlands Fire Service dispatched 10 firefighters on two fire engines – one from Walsall and one from Bloxwich.

Tatanka set to roll in at the Banks's

TOMAHAWKS at the ready! World-famous Native American wrestling star Tatanka is in Walsall tomorrow night, Friday, to perform for his many fans.

Star of the 1980s and 90s he was one of the big names of the WWF and WWE scene, alongside Hulk Hogan and others and is taking on Walsall grappler Johnny Thunder at the Saddlers Club at Banks's Stadium.

Tickets range from £10 to £20. Doors open at 6.30pm, for further details, call 07747 441028.

Police pledge blitz over pickpockets

PICKPOCKETS are targeting shoppers in Walsall town centre, sparking a police crackdown. At least 10 reports have been made in recent weeks of thieves stealing belongings from handbags and pockets.

Property stolen includes cash and mobile phones to credit cards. Sergeant Julie Whiting said: "Walsall town centre team are tackling these issues with the use of plain clothes officers who will patrol the area and specifically target known offenders."

Poet at library

TIPTON library has announced the latest in its series of local history coffee mornings. Emma Purchasehouse will drop into the library in Owen Street to muse about her life as a poet and writer on Thursday, January 28. The event starts at 10.30am and places can be reserved on 0121 557 1796.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

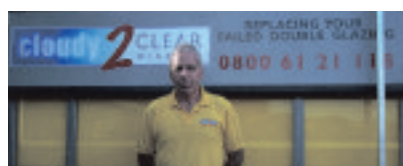
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Why less is more for the filmgoers

QUENTIN Tarantino's new movie, The Hateful Eight, seems to be the film of choice for those in the know at the moment. The western, set in the aftermath of the American Civil war, lasts a burn-numbing three hours seven minutes.

It follows hot on the heels of Spectre, the longest Bond movie ever, at two hours 40 minutes. And of course, a few years ago there was War Horse, another acclaimed movie that was also the best part of three hours.

Whatever happened to the 90-minute film? It wouldn't be so bad, but you now have to sit through half an hour of trailers, non-smoking warnings, and threats of what will happen if you film the movie on your phone before you even begin. As if you could film a three-hour film on your mobile.

Besides, too many films these days seem to be filled with padding just to make them last longer.

Take Captain Phillips, for example, the film about the captain of a ship hi-jacked by pirates. The first 15 minutes was about his drive to work and fears for his son's future. Or the Kingsman, where half an hour was spent messing about with a light aircraft. Just get on with it.

Look, I'm not pining for the days of a B-movie to act as the warm-up, an interval in the middle to change spools, and a spot of Pathe news to keep us abreast of what is going on in the world. But I do think that an hour-and-a-half is long enough for any story, and if a film runs for as long as an ice-hockey match, then it should be edited more tightly.

I TRUST that you are now sleeping more soundly at night, after our lawmakers spent two hours debating why they did not want to ban Donald Trump from entering the UK.

The debate, if you can call it that, given that nobody apart from Alex Salmond was in favour of a Trump ban, was triggered because 500,000 of the professional malcontents who spend most of their lives moaning on Twitter and Facebook had signed a petition. Do these people never take a day off?

There is the small matter of the fact that the talking Shredded Wheat has never indicated any plans to visit the UK - he would probably struggle to find it on a map - but, hey, let's not that get in the way of a spot of student-union grandstanding. But next time, maybe the Twitterati might turn their attention to something that actually affects us?

ACCORDING to the latest healthy eating guidelines from the Department of Health, we are now expected to restrict ourselves to 30g of sugar a day, the equivalent of nine sugar lumps. EXCEPT Chris Huhne, of course. He's letting the missus have his points.



Thin White Duke — Bowie on stage at Stafford in 1978



Tin Machine saw Bowie fronting a hard rock band at the Civic Hall



Bowie at the NEC, he brought several tours to the mega-venue

Starman memories left by icon Bowie

David Bowie influenced more than one generation via his music, fashion, art and ideas
PETER MADELEY reports

IF it hadn't been for David Bowie, most of the rock stars, broadcasters and writers who made it out of the West Midlands would never have got started.

There would have been no Birmingham-based Duran Duran and no Black Country combo Pop Will Eat Itself.

Alternative music and new wave would have had as much chance of making it into the mainstream as avant garde jazz. The star who implored 'Let's Dance' was the starting point for three generations of artists.

His untimely death at the age of 69 robs us of one of music's greatest icons, a true innovator who ranks alongside The Beatles and Elvis as being one of the most influential artists of all time.

Influence

Pop Will Eat Itself founder Clint Mansell, for instance, is presently one of Hollywood's most influential soundtrack writers.

But without Bowie, he'd never have started. He counts Bowie as the main influence on his musical career.

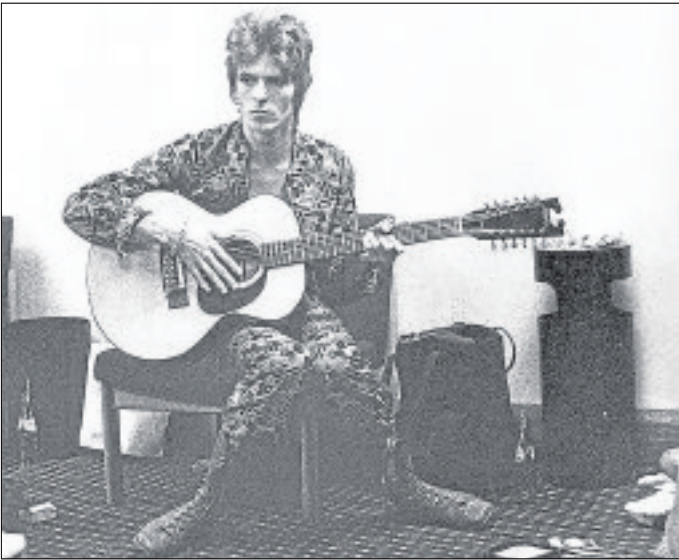
Clint, from Stourbridge, believes there have been 12 key moments in his life.

The first was his birth in 1963. The next significant episode was in 1972 when he saw David Bowie perform 'Starman' on Top of the Pops. The experience changed his life.

Clint's third key moment came that year when he bought his first album 'The Rise & Fall of Ziggy Stardust'. After that, he was only ever going to be a rock'n'roll star.

Jonn Penney, whose band Ned's Atomic Dustbin, followed Pop Will Eat Itself and The Wonder Stuff into the charts and onto the stages of the nation's biggest festivals, has a similar debt of gratitude to Bowie.

Jonn, from Wolverhampton, said: "To be



Ziggy played guitar — Bowie in a reflective moment backstage at Birmingham Town Hall

honest, I kinda feel unqualified to comment on Bowie," he said. "He's so iconic. He's such a genius. What can I say about him? I guess the thing about Bowie is what he stood for; whether that was intended or not. He was utterly unique.

"He made it okay for people to plough their own furrow, rather than follow the herd. He sort of ratified that, he justified it too. But beyond that, he showed everyone that the best music they can make is the most honest music."

Slade drummer Don Powell, who grew up in Bilston, said he was fortunate enough to meet

talented. The Let's Dance album to me is one of the greatest pop albums of all time, every bit as good as Sgt Pepper."

Mr Waterman, a veteran of 26 Bowie live concerts, added; "He was a showman who was able to wrap a simple pop song up into something completely different.

"He was just amazing. I only met him twice and found him incredibly quiet."

Wolverhampton author Caitlin Moran broke down in tears during a Bowie track on BBC Radio Two's Jeremy Vine show.

She said: "This is such a sad day. It feels like someone's taken the core out of the Earth."

"As a child of my generation he seemed to be everywhere."

Bowie played numerous iconic gigs around the Black Country, Birmingham and Staffordshire, including three nights at Stafford's Bingley Hall in June 1978.

Some recall him appearing at venues in Birmingham and Wolverhampton in the 1960s before he found fame, and support slots for Marc Bolan's band T Rex and Humble Pie, the group fronted by former Small Faces singer Steve Marriott.

He graced the stage at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, firstly in 1973 on the Ziggy Stardust tour and later with his hard rock band Tin Machine in 1991.

He also performed at Birmingham Town Hall in 1970s and at the NEC during the 1980s and 90s.

Reality

In 1997 he was a surprise addition to the bill at the Phoenix Festival held at Long Marston Airfield near Stratford-upon-Avon and played a low-key gig at Birmingham city centre's Que Club.

He appeared finally in the Midlands as part of his A Reality Tour in 2003. That tour was cut short when Bowie had a heart attack, which began his withdrawal from concert performances. The singer's death was announced last Monday, just two days after the release of his 25th album Blackstar, when it was revealed that he had been battling cancer for 18 months.

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How Hunt antagonised junior doctors

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy Hunt for intentionally provoking the strike by junior doctors by claiming that the strike is over pay when in actual fact it is against excessive working hours.

The NHS is under extreme pressure by design because of the arbitrary cuts imposed by this anti-public sector government which shields the banking chiefs in the financial sector who

brought the economy to its knees in the first place.

Anyone with too much sense to be propagandised by the Government would know that working long hours leads to tiredness and that tiredness causes mistakes. A mistake made during an operation can be fatal to a patient. Does the Government want blood on its hands?

I work for the NHS as a medical re-

cords clerk. Without the NHS, my father would have died of incipient TB. I'm not involved in the strikes but I support them because I trust doctors more than I trust politicians, especially politicians as deceitful as Jeremy Hunt, and I feel that the doctors have a point. Doctors save lives; politicians put them in jeopardy.

S FLANAGAN
Aldridge

Looking at problem of fuel poverty

THE UK is set to plunge into freezing temperatures our mid-term weather forecast predicts.

Think fuel poverty is not on your doorstep? Think again, around 2.3m UK households can't afford to keep their home adequately heated. Many mistakenly believe everyone living in fuel poverty is on benefits. In fact last winter found that half of households living in fuel poverty in the UK had someone in work.

Energy prices are at historically low levels. We should have been using this breathing space to radically improve the UK's energy and housing stock. Living in a cold house is not only detrimental to physical health but, it also affects emotional wellbeing.

We needed an unprecedented local effort to tackle rates of fuel poverty instead we have received weasel words and an uncoordinated approach. A catch up after, reactionary investment, made available after the big freeze has done its worst. People are more likely to get frostbite than help.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

walsall.chron@
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Acorns still facing many challenges

ON behalf of everyone at Acorns Children's Hospice, I would like to wish all our readers a very happy New Year.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every individual, business and volunteer who helped give their support to our work in 2015. As I look ahead to the New Year, I am acutely aware of the many challenges our organisation faces.

It is a sobering reality that there are a growing number of children in our region with increasingly complex health and social care needs and we are finding more and more families coming to Acorns for support.

If we are to continue providing the medical, physical and emotional care which these families have come

to rely on, we need your continued help. Acorns is asking local people to 'Bring Your A Game' and make a commitment to support our work.

I would like to turn your readers' attention to our website where there are a host of ideas to help support us, whatever your abilities or interests; whether it is fundraising, volunteering or joining an event.

Where New Year's resolutions fail I hope that Acorns can provide a more meaningful and achievable alternative, and at the same time you can help make a real difference to local life-limited children along with their families.

DAVID STRUDLEY
Chief Executive
Acorns Children's Hospice

Sad to hear of this death

HOW sad I was to read of Bill Madeley passing away. I first met Bill when I was 16 at Mellish Road Youth Club. He was the goalkeeper in their football team.

We lost touch when he went to Malaysia - and I last saw him at Darlaston Town Hall in April. I showed him a photograph of the youth club on holiday at Guernsey. I suggested a reunion. Not many of us left now. Sympathy to his wife.

SHIRLEY BURTON
(née Daniel)
Wolverhampton

Consequences of downgrade

ANYONE who tells you that the downgrade of Stafford hospital has not caused problems in all the other local hospitals is wrong.

Ambulance drivers' choice of hospital for their passengers has been decreased considerably and at times it must be very stressful.

Both major parties must take the blame, truth be told they wish the NHS would fade into obscurity. Someone needs to take the bull by the horns and sort it out.

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Horror parachute fall at village fair recalled

IT was the horrifying moment a parachutist plunged 60ft to the ground after being caught on a pylon while a rescue helicopter crashed moments later

Now a Walsall man, who was among a crowd desperately trying to catch RAF Sgt Kenneth Cornwall using tarpaulin, has recalled the dramatic scenes after seeing this picture on the internet more than 40 years later.

Peter Nesbit was a fresh-faced 19-year-old when he attended the Aldridge Summer Fair on a 'hot and sunny' Saturday on July 7, 1973.

He described the staple attractions at the venue off Erdington Road as 'par for the course' but it wasn't long before people turned their attention to the 'real attraction' which was a display from a parachute team.

Suspended

But the summer frivolities soon turned to near tragedy after one parachutist got caught on the way down.

Mr Nesbit said: "This particular team member came down directly between the two lines of high-power live cables carried on either side of the pylons, and his parachute caught on the single topmost cable, leaving him suspended helplessly in an incredibly perilous position surrounded by power line. This caused quite a stir amongst the onlookers when we all realised this certainly wasn't part of the show."

Fire crews quickly arrived and along with about 20 volunteers assembled a safety net out of tarpaulin in an attempt to catch the stranded stuntman.

An Army helicopter belonging to the 15/16th Queens Royal Lancers arrived, prompting initial relief among spectators, and dropped a harness for Sgt Cornwall to latch himself onto but then disaster struck. "It all went horribly wrong," said Mr Nesbit. "Without warning, the parachutist was pulled back up some distance and then he suddenly fell, along with the loose rescue cable, we think from about 40 feet."



RAF Sgt Kenneth Cornwall plummets to the ground, narrowly missing the group of volunteers with a safety net set up to catch him. The sheered rescue helicopter harness cable can be seen falling with him

"He landed face down flat on the ground with a loud thud that shook the ground beneath our feet, missing us and the tarpaulin by about 10 feet. Within a second or two the helicopter came down too, crashing just a few yards from us on the other side of a hedge."

The stricken aircraft burst into flames causing onlookers to fear the worst. But miraculously amidst the smoke the two pilots emerged from the wreckage. It wasn't until some months later Mr Nesbit, now 61 and from Streetly, discovered that Sgt Cornwall had survived. In 1997 he was tracked down to Australia where he revealed the accident left him with a 'crooked back and no elbows'.

It is believed the helicopter was blown out of position by the wind flinging the dangling stuntman away from the safety net after the rescue line rapped around the tail rotor blade disabling the aircraft and bringing it down. Mr Nesbit noticed the picture, taken originally by former Express & Star photographer Geoff Wright, on Facebook recently.

He added: "Someone flagged it up and I had never seen that picture before. I thought flipping heck! I was in that."

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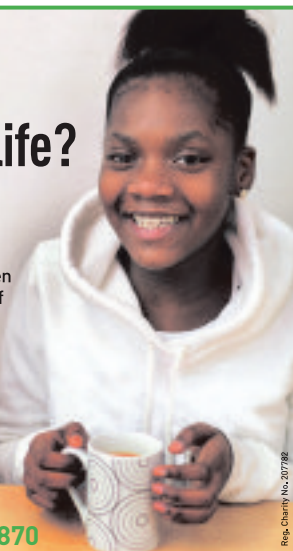
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Deputy mayor backs doctors' cause



Junior doctors waved placards outside Walsall Manor, joined by deputy mayor Councillor Kath Phillips, left

JUNIOR doctors took to the picket line outside Walsall Manor Hospital to protest against new contracts being introduced by the Government.

Doctors at the hospital on Moat Road showed their unity by forming a picket line after walking out of work, with bosses admitting that disruption to patient services as a result of their actions was 'unavoidable'.

The protests were part of a national day of strike action which saw over 4,000 routine treatments, including knee and hip replacements, postponed.

Many appointments and tests were cancelled for patients and elective

surgery for non-medical emergencies were cancelled.

Junior doctors at the Manor hospital were joined by deputy mayor for the borough, Kath Phillips, who said: "I wanted to show my support for junior doctors, who I think are being treated incredibly unfairly."

"It is bad enough when a young person goes to university to better themself and ends up with a mountain of debt, but what is happening to these younger doctors is much worse. They are involved in some of the toughest study programmes possible and on top of that, they are carrying out one of

the most difficult jobs imaginable." Currently, there are more than 55,000 junior doctors in England, representing a third of the medical workforce. Out of these, 37,000 of the doctors are part of the British Medical Association (BMA) that called the strike.

The strike was the first of three walkouts planned over the next few weeks. Amir Khan, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Medical Director, for the Manor said "The safety of patients will remain a priority and we are doing all we can to ensure minimal disruption, there may be some delays or cancellations and this is unavoidable."

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10-minute stays to be scrapped for parking

The Chronicle Thursday, January 21, 2016

TICKETS for 10 minutes' parking in hundreds of on-street spaces across Walsall are being scrapped – with the minimum time limit being increased to 30 minutes.

Council bosses say they want to encourage shoppers to stay in the town centre for longer. Visitors currently have to pay for 10 minute slots at 20p each.

But Walsall Council wants to replace this with the choice of purchasing parking for up to 30 minutes, up to one hour and up to two hours.

There are 300 on-street parking spaces in Walsall. Under the plans, there will be no increase in the charge per unit of time but the minimum time period that can be purchased will increase from 10 to 30 minutes.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council deputy leader, said he hopes the move encourages shoppers to 'stay in Walsall that little bit longer'.

He said: "If we can get people to spend that little bit longer in the town, the combined effect of this will be beneficial for everyone."

By Jordan Harris

"We want people to see what we have on offer and use it, so if they pay for half an hour of parking, we would hope that they stay for half an hour and see the market, the redeveloped Old Square and the Saddlers centre."

While council bosses want to encourage people to use their on-street car parking facilities more, it was revealed last year that under the latest budget plans, a total of £15,000 will be taken from the car park maintenance budget despite concerns it could present a negative image of the town.

Currently, the council, which is facing £25m of savings, operates 59 car parks across the borough.

Roman around the leather museum



With Roman and Saxon reproduction items from the 'discovery box', assistant curator David Mill at the museum

YOUNGSTERS can learn all about Roman and Saxon life at Walsall Leather Museum. The venue, which hosts a variety of activity sessions for school groups across the borough, has encouraged young people to check out their 'discovery box', containing leather items which would have been worn back in ancient times.

The box forms part of one of the many different sessions on offer for youngsters at the museum, including historic walks around Walsall.

Assistant curator David Mill said: "One of the things we do to give children who visit the museum an interactive learning experience is let them wear things like battle vests and masks, it makes learning more exciting for them."

Other activities available for school visits include Asian slipper making, shadow puppet sessions and making a Tudor mask. All activities have been tailored to complement the National Curriculum, particularly history but also support art, design, geography, literacy and science.

The Leather Museum is looking for volunteers to take on various roles. For details call 01922 652288.

Shock for man after he wakes up to flat on fire

A DISABLED man woke to find his home ablaze after a lighted cigarette fell on to the carpet as he slept.

Neil Cartwright was knocked off his feet by the force of the blast when he went to investigate fumes seeping under his bedroom door after being woken by the smoke detector.

The 48-year-old managed to press the community alarm fob around his neck for help. The operator alerted the emergency services on his behalf.

The blaze gutted the bedroom of his flat in King Street, Walsall Wood, on Saturday night.

Fire crews found him dazed on his hands and knees near the front door suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation. He was given oxygen therapy at the scene before being taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for further treatment. Today he said: "I hold my hands up, it was my own fault, I'd been smoking. I just can't believe the damage it's caused."

Clothes

Mr Cartwright had earlier been watching The Voice on the television whilst talking to his 74-year-old mother, his registered carer, on the phone. After finishing the conversation he got up and went to the bedroom to pick out some clothes for the wash. As he did so, he placed his burning cigarette on the window sill.

Mr Cartwright then went to the kitchen to load up the washing machine before returning to the living room where he promptly fell asleep in an armchair.

When the fire alarm woke him, he looked around and saw smoke coming from under his bedroom door and,



Neil Cartwright, aged 48, in the bedroom of his flat where a fire broke out

without thinking, opened it to take a look. He said the next second there was an explosion which took out the windows and blew him backwards off his feet. "I just wanted to see what was happening. I was coughing and I could smell smoke. The next thing I was on was on the floor."

"Fortunately I was wearing my community alarm fob and was able to press it for help. The manager there dialled 999 and contacted my mother."

"They also told me to get on my hands and knees to avoid breathing in the fumes. I don't think I'd be here if it

wasn't for that. The firefighters were able to get access to my flat and got me out." Mr Cartwright, who suffers from epilepsy and heart disease, and walks with a stick as a result of a road accident, was released from hospital on Monday.

He believes chemicals in a spray used to treat the carpets earlier in the day, may have accelerated the blaze.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said the blaze in the first-floor apartment severely damaged the bedroom and caused smoke logging to the rest of the property.

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Baker Lara's a cake Jean genius



The cake featuring the singer in latter years, with his distinctive Ziggy Stardust stripe and uniquely different coloured eyes

A BROWNHILLS baker has paid her own special tribute to the late music legend David Bowie in the only way she knows how – making him in cake form.

Lara Mason, from Hussey Road, is well-known for her meticulous creations having sculptured the likes of Prince George, Harry Potter as well as a half-sized Land Rover Defender.

After the shock death of Bowie on Sunday January 10, following a battle with cancer, Mrs Mason said she had been asked to do her own special tribute to the former Ziggy Stardust singer, and it includes his oddly different coloured eyes, which were the result of a playground fight.

In a post which featured a picture of the finished cake, she said: "Lots of requests for this one today.

"I only had a few hours to get him finished, so I hope I have done him justice.

"He is made completely from fondant and is life size.

"RIP Starman."

The post has since been shared more than 200 times and received more than 1,000 likes.

Enraged husband jailed for assault

AN ENRAGED husband who caught his wife in her bedroom with another man has been jailed for 10 months after admitting wounding what he thought was his rival with a knife.

Wayne Roberts, aged 29, was originally accused of attempting to murder deputy headteacher Kennell Douglas in Walsall on July 24 last year.

But in a dramatic twist on the second day of his trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court father-of-two Roberts pleaded guilty instead to a lesser single charge of wounding.

Sentencing him, Judge Amjad Nawaz said Roberts had already served most of his custodial sentence while in remand and that he would remain on licence for the remainder. Earlier the court heard how Roberts, of Juniper Drive, Walsall, arrived at his wife's new home in the town early morning to find the door chain-locked from the inside.

Judge Nawaz said: "You were not expecting your wife to be there and forced the door open. You picked up a kitchen knife on the basis that someone was unlawfully in her home and you might be in danger."

The court was told how Jamaican national Roberts made his way to the bedroom and launched an assault on Mr Douglas which saw him snap the knife's blade.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said Mr Douglas had

By Amardeep Bassey

agreed to visit Roberts' wife Miss Charmaine Hendricks at her new home to help her settle in. He told the jury: "Mr Douglas managed to fight off the defendant then escape but was seriously injured.

"The defendant no doubt believed Mr Douglas was engaged in some kind of liaison with his wife. He was enraged at the time of the attack.

"It was a significant attack with force, a sustained attack to a vulnerable part of the body."

In mitigation Roberts' lawyer Simon Williams said his client had no previous convictions having entered the UK from Jamaica in February 2014.

He said: "He married Miss Hendricks and so gained leave to remain in the UK until December 2017 after which he must reapply.

"This is a young man brought up in a third world country who has tried his best to get on and was never in any trouble with the law."

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Success at a stroke for young Mya

WHEN two-year-old Mya decided she would learn to swim by the end of 2015, nobody could have guessed just how well she was going to do. Just over 12 months later and the Cannock three-year-old is swimming at the level of a five to seven-year-old. She has the ASA Learn to Swim Award Stage 1 and 2 and The ASA Rainbow 5 metre and 10 metre Award. Her parents, Charlie and Cat Thompson, said they never expected for her to take to swimming as well as she had. Cat said: "It's amazing to see your little child go from splashing around in the water to actually swimming. It's an amazing feeling. "To teach her that life skill that's going to stick with her for her whole life – every mom should do it."

Achievement

"It's such a big achievement for her, and she just wants to keep going." Mya had given up on swimming lessons before setting her goal but sitting down and stating what she wanted to do seemed to make all the difference. "To get her back in the water at all was a big achievement," Cat added. "There was something that just clicked in her head. She was so excited to do her badges. She became so confident." Charlie said: "If she puts her mind to something, she can do it, but she hated even having her hair washed so I knew she'd have to overcome that. "Our holiday last summer was completely different to the one before. We'd taken armbands just in case but she ended up teaching another little girl to swim."



Young Mya Robb, aged three, who will soon be swimming with seven-year-olds

Could new Argos shop be at risk in takeover?

WALSALL'S new Argos shop could shut as Sainsbury's considers closing the outlet and relocating it inside one of the borough's supermarkets.

The other 15 Argos sites in the Black Country and Staffordshire are also under threat.

Sainsbury's has announced it is considering targeting Argos branches as part of a £1 billion-plus takeover of the Home Retail Group.

In a presentation outlining its plans, Sainsbury's said it would look to shut a number of the 734 units in the Argos chain and bring them into its supermarkets as concessions.

Sources close to Sainsbury's believe between 150 and 200 Argos shops could be impacted and that places all 16 in the Black Country and Staffordshire under threat, including Walsall's new unit at Crown Wharf Shopping Park, which has been open for less than a year.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said: "I would like to think we would escape such a move because it's a brand new purpose-built shop which has been open only a few months."

Worrying

"It's always worrying times when one firm takes over another as there are always repercussions, but let's hope it's not our shop in Walsall."

On top of the one in Walsall, Argos has three units in Wolverhampton in the city centre, Bilston and Bentley Bridge Retail Park, two in Cannock at Orbital Retail Park and Cannock shopping centre, one in Kings Square in West Bromwich, one at Bearwood shopping centre in Smethwick, one at Oldbury Retail Park in Oldbury, two in Dudley on the High Street and at the Merry Hill centre, one in Hale-



The Argos store which opened up at the Crown Wharf centre in Walsall



The Sainsbury's store situated at Reedswood Retail Park in Walsall

sown at the Cornbow centre, one in Rugeley at Pointland Park, two in Stafford at the Hough Retail Park and on Mount Street, and finally one in Lichfield's Three Spires shopping centre.

No indication has so far been given on what might happen to Argos' huge distribution centre in Stafford. Speaking on the proposed closures, Sainsbury's chief executive Mike Coupe said that overall it could expand the Argos

chain by rolling out concessions in supermarkets nationwide.

He added that he believes around half of Argos' shops in the country had leases with less than five years to run, which offered the opportunity to shut a number of them and move them into Sainsbury's.

There are already 10 Argos concessions in the supermarket in the UK as part of a trial.

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Darth Vader wall light rated top at spring fair

A STAR Wars wall light will be among the most popular new products this year, according to buyers planning to visit this year's Spring Fair, at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre.

The fair, the largest retail event of the year, takes place from February 7 to 11 with 85 per cent of the UK's top high street brands attending. Ahead of the fair, event organisers monitor product interest using technology built into its website, which enables them to predict trends and forecast the hottest products in retail for the coming year.

The Darth Vader Wall Light from 3DLightFX, which has a recommended retail price of £39.95, was rated top.

New school pitch named after pupil in tragedy



PE subject leader Jack Phillips with netball winners

A NEW sports pitch at a Walsall school has been dedicated to former pupil Natasha Whale who was tragically killed in a crash.

The all-weather surface was unveiled at Ryders Hayes School in Pelsall. Year 6 pupils marked the occasion with an inter-house netball competition in a fitting tribute to sporty 13-year-old Natasha, a keen footballer.

The youngster played for Wyrley Pumas and Burntwood Phoenix.

Her mum Shelley Whale attended the ceremony and thanked Ryders Hayes for naming the facility after her daughter. She said: "This is an amazing tribute to Natasha - a very special girl, who was beautiful on the inside and outside."

The school secured funding from Sport England to build the new facility. PE teacher Jack Phillips said: "Natasha was a keen footballer at the school with huge amounts of sporting talent."

"Ryders Hayes hope that naming the pitch after Natasha will inspire current pupils to pursue their sporting goals."

He added: "Due to the school's limited space for PE and the high number of children at the school, Sport England awarded the school a grant to build a new sports pitch on their school field last summer. The pitch, designed for children of all ages in the school, will be used for PE lessons and extra-curricular clubs in Netball, football and other activities."

Natasha was killed in February 2014 on the way to Walsall Academy, where



Crash victim, Natasha Whale

she attended at the time, when the car was involved in a collision with an Adams Tours coach on Valley Road in Blakenall.

She had been sitting in the back seat at the time. In tribute to her Burntwood Phoenix FC played in a tournament named after Natasha last February to mark one year since she died. They had previously launched balloons and held a minute's silence to commemorate their former team-mate.

The club has also retired her number 2 shirt as a further tribute to her.

Road markings have since been put in place at the scene of the crash after it emerged there were no 'give way' signs when the collision occurred.



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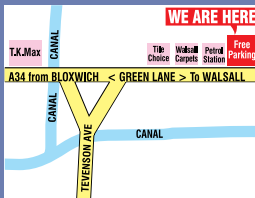
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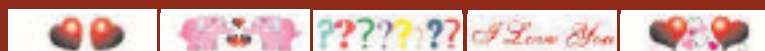
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The wedding taking place inside St Hilda's Church, Oldbury



A kiss from granddaughter Joanne Marshallsay

Happy ever after for Bill, 90, and Florence aged 96



Bill Griffiths, 90, with his 96-year-old new bride, Florence Marshallsay

DEARLY beloved, we are gathered here to witness the story of perhaps Britain's oldest newly-weds.

Because inspirational Black Country couple Bill Griffiths, 90, and 96-year-old Florence 'Flo' Marshallsay have proved it is never too late to live happily ever after by tying the knot.

The pair – who have known each other for almost 20 years and lived together for the best part of a decade – exchanged their vows at St Hilda's Church in Warley Woods at a packed ceremony.

With nearly 190 years between them the happy couple have made headlines around the world.

Albion fan Bill wore a Baggies tie for the service, while Flo – who was given away by her grandson Mark – donned a dress hand-picked for her from John Lewis.

The 'wonderful' occasion was led by the pair's family friend Rev Paul Hinton.

Speaking afterwards Flo, who ran the Malt Shovel pub in Dudley for nearly 40 years, said: "It's nice, it's really quite something. Reverend Paul was mentioning all these countries and I didn't know what he was on about. Then I worked out they have all been saying we're the oldest people to get married."

"The church was full, it was amazing. It's been absolutely wonderful."

Father-of-three Bill, a former engineer who worked for BKB Electric in Birmingham, used to go dancing with his late wife Joan, before she died in 1997.

Inseparable

It was there he first met mother-of-two Flo. After Joan died the couple became inseparable, eventually agreeing to move in to Bill's house in Oldbury.

"At one of the dances I said to Joan 'can I have my husband when you've finished with him?' and she said 'you can have him now if you want! But I never thought it would actually happen. I was gobsmacked when he asked me to marry him.'"

The emotional occasion got to Bill who shed tears as he escorted his new wife down the aisle. Family and friends travelled from across the country for the heartwarming service.

Bill, who still swims weekly with his daughter, Anne, popped the question to Flo last year 'out of the blue'.

His son Peter said: "It has all gone really well, the whole day has been amazing and a really lovely reunion for the families."

"They've been living as man and wife for 10 years or so now, but one day dad just looked at me and said 'I'd like to ask Flo to marry me'."

"I told him he had better ask her as she was sat next to him. I'm absolutely over the moon for them."

Addressing the packed church, Rev Hinton said: "It is not every day that a vicar anywhere has the privilege of marrying two people whose combined ages would make a very good cricket score."

"And it is certainly not every day that nearly 200 years of wisdom, experience and love are brought together to make these age-old vows. I know that your very presence here together is an inspiration to us."

After tying the knot Bill and Flo enjoyed a reception at the Eaton Hotel in Hagley Road, Birmingham where they stayed the night. Their plans for a honeymoon to Cornwall have fallen through after a friend they were due to stay with fell ill.

Instead they are due to spend a few days with Flo's daughter-in-law Lorraine Marshallsay in Southwell, and are planning time away in St Ives later in the year.



The emotions run high for relatives



Florence with grandson Mark



Family and friends celebrate the special day outside the church

£7,000 charity boost in memory of cyclist Geoff

FRIENDS of a Wolverhampton man who was killed when he was knocked off his cycle on his way home from work have raised nearly £7,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance who tried to save his life.

Geoff Lutner, a keen cyclist, who was brought up in Windsor Gardens, was killed 10 years ago at the age of 45 in a collision which threw him off his bicycle. He was airlifted by Midlands Air Ambulance to Selly Oak Trauma Unit but unfortunately did not survive.

To commemorate the 10-year anniversary of Mr Lutner's death, his friends and colleagues from Moog joined together last July to cycle one of Geoff's old routes.

Starting at 9am, the group completed a 41.3 mile long off-road loop, arriving back to the factory at around 7pm, after stopping off at

The Bell pub, Trysull, to raise a glass in his memory.

That raised £2,400 for the Air Ambulance and their recent Christmas party raised a further £1,400. Additional fundraising over the past 10 years brings the total raised to almost £7,000.

Bryan Holder, friend and colleague of Geoff said "Geoff always had a smile on his face, and was forever making everyone laugh. He was a true gentleman, great to be around and is greatly missed by us all."

Mr Lutner always wore his helmet, luminous clothing and night lights.

Adam Williams, regional fundraising manager said "With no Government or National Lottery funding, each mission is funded by generous donations from people like Bry and his colleagues at Moog."



Air Ambulance donation – friends and colleagues line up with a picture of Geoff

Staying in EU vital for jobs, says MP

REMAINING in the EU is vital for jobs and investment across the country, says a Wolverhampton MP.

Emma Reynolds, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, was speaking after raising a question about the European referendum and the alternatives to EU membership with the Foreign Secretary in Parliament.

The referendum is expected this year and must be held before the end of 2017.

Ms Reynolds asked: "Does the Foreign Secretary believe that it would be in the UK's national interest to have the fax democracy of Norway, whereby we would be sent the rules and regulations of the single market, abide by the freedom of movement principle, and pay into the EU budget but have no seat around the negotiating table?"

"Remaining in the European Union is vital for jobs and investment in Wolverhampton and across the country. International companies like Jaguar Land Rover and UTC have invested in Wolverhampton in part because of our access to the European single market. Leaving the EU would put jobs and investment at risk," she added.

Removal bid on fitness equipment is rejected

A PETITION to remove fitness equipment and benches from a Wolverhampton green space due to anti-social behaviour fears has been rejected by councillors.

Residents of Lincoln Green, Bushbury had been fighting for the removal of the equipment, claiming the site has led to gangs causing trouble and had left some people 'scared to go to bed'.

But the City of Wolverhampton petitions committee were unanimously against it, due to the lack of evidence of anti-social behaviour in the area, the high cost of carrying out the removal and relocation and the health benefits of the fitness equipment.

Support

Bushbury North councillor Daniel Warren said: "This is in my area, and the people who put forward the petition did suffer a really terrible incident."

"I have spoken to them about this petition and helped support them at the time."

"At the time they were quite happy with the response they received, but 12 months on they decided the equipment must be removed. There seems to be a split in opinion on Lincoln Green."

"I think that even if the equipment wasn't there, what happened to the people would still have happened, there are a lot of trees and it's very dark at night time."

"There have been no reports of anti-social behaviour there in the last 12 months, so for it to be

removed on that basis, I wouldn't be able to support the petition. I would support keeping the equipment but monitoring any anti-social activity. There is a clear cause for keeping the equipment and benches there."

Councillor Judith Rowley added: "The health aspect is enough to keep the equipment there. It is important these days to have this kind of facility available to people, especially with rising levels of obesity."

"We should have these kinds of facilities available indoors and outdoors, I would be loathe to support anything to remove them."

Dave Millington, compliance officer, told the committee of the research done and consultations made with residents in the area.

He said: "The petition was received on June 16. There were 25 names on it, 18 of which were people who actually live by Lincoln Green. We contacted multi-agencies including the police, and there were no reports of anti-social behaviour relating to the fitness equipment or the benches."

A&E doctor retires – after 30 years

A WOLVERHAMPTON doctor is retiring after 30 years of caring for patients as part of the A & E department at the city's New Cross hospital.

Dr Anil Kohli, of Tettenhall, began working for the Royal Hospital in January 1986 as a clinical assistant in the A & E department.

He then progressed to staff surgeon before becoming assistant specialist. When the Royal hospital closed down, Dr Kohli was one of three consultants working in A & E and was senior surgeon, with expertise in hand injuries and facial injuries.

He was thrilled to have received a special sculpture from his colleagues in the department – a hand holding a surgeon's knife. His portrait now features in the training room at New Cross hospital.

He will continue to support the busy A & E team at New Cross for up to three days a week.

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The stands are packed for an FA Cup game at Bilston in November 1968



Bilston town, in the Dr Martens Midland Division from 2001



Author Jay Hearst with former Bilston FC player Nick Pugh



Bilston Town FC's grandstand from a few years back



The Bilston Town FC team in the 1958/59 season

Fan tells his beloved Bilston Town's story

A DIE-HARD fan of a semi-professional football team has told of his 'labour of love' after releasing a book chronicling the 121-year history of his club.

Supporter Jay Hearst has spent the last two years compiling information from every single season from 1894 for his book entitled *The History of Bilston Town Football Club*.

The 37-year-old has been 'burning the candle at both ends' to get the book ready for print, and now his hard work, with the help of club chairman Graham Hodson and vice-chairman Denise Frankham, has come to fruition.

It tells the tales of the all-conquering 1900-01 squad that won six trophies, as well as the side that almost a century later held a youthful Manchester United featuring top goalkeeper Mark Bosnich to a draw in a pre-season friendly, and a Steelmen star who lined up for England.

MEMORY LANE

By Nick Humphreys

Mr Hearst, a sales worker by day from the Bilston area, said: "It includes a small section for every single season, with gaps of course for World Wars One and Two. Some sections naturally are bigger than others, mostly based on the information I was able to find."

"It does include the entire league record from 1894-2015 and so is up to date right up until the start of this current football season. It also includes the club's entire post war FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase records. Looking in some detail, using newspaper clippings that were supplied by the Express & Star, at the two occasions that Bilston Town have reached the FA Cup proper, in 1968/69 and 1972/73."

"It also includes information about league achievements, and cup achievements. There are also some former player biographies

that were kindly given to me by the players at their reunions that I attended between May 2013 and October 2015."

The club, currently known as Bilston Town Community FC and which plies its trade in the West Midlands Regional Premier League, won the division in 1961 and 1973, its two most significant honours to date. During the 1961 triumph, striker Ron McDermott plundered a sensational 77 league goals. Mr Hearst added: "In April of 1896 a Bilston player called S. Bond was selected to play for an England amateur international against a Scotland amateur XI. That is one of the highlights. He was a Bilston player when selected to represent his country."

On his experience of writing the book, Mr Hearst said: "It was mostly a labour of love but having a full time job meant burning the candle at both ends for many, many months. But it was worth it."

To get your hands on a copy of the book visit www.bilstontownfc.weebly.com

The History of Bilston Town Football Club



The cover of Jay Hearst's book featuring the 1900-01 team

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Rockers swagger back with style

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE classic bluesy rock on White Bear, the second album from The Temperance Movement, further establishes this British band as torch bearers for honest no-nonsense rock.

Their music is in the swaggering tradition of The Black Crowes and AC/DC with nods to the reflective West Coast style of the likes of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

The band already has reputation as a great live act and White Bear will add to their legion of fans, particularly thanks to full-throated Scottish frontman Phil Campbell.

They have already won The Rolling Stones' seal of approval, having been chosen to support the living legends on tour.

Highlights on White Bear include the stomping Three Bullets and the free-wheeling, expansive A Pleasant Peace I Feel.

Notorious

Check them out in concert at Birmingham's O2 Institute in Digbeth on Monday, January 25.

Notorious for unpleasant on-stage antics, it's a safe bet that **Fat White Family** aren't looking to become family favourites by name checking killer GP Doctor Shipman, Italian dictator Mussolini and Hitler's henchman Joseph Goebbels with tracks on second album **Songs For Our Mothers**.

Their sound is so slippery it's hard to pin down, which isn't a bad thing. Safe to say, if you enjoy the loose grooves of The Happy Mondays and/or the intensity of John Lydon's PIL, this



Bear necessities — The Temperance Movement Picture by Rob Blackham

ramshackle bunch are certainly worth listening to.

I suspect that with a little more focus Songs For Our Mothers could have been an exceptional album. There are more than a few hints of that amid all the frazzled strangeness.

It begins with the relentless Krautrock rhythm of Whitest Boy On The Beach, takes it to another woozy level on Satisfied, and reaches its zenith with Duce — imagine some mad jam involving The Yardbirds, the Glitter Band and chanting Gregorian monks.

The delivery of lyrics range from whispers to screams with chants in between, and are mostly indistinct, which is perhaps a good thing given the band's desire to shock. But the cumulative effect is wonky, weird and overwhelming.

You can catch Fat White Family live

when they kick off their latest tour at Birmingham's O2 Institute on February 20 — don't say I didn't warn you.

Nearly three years on from the debut album by **Savages**, Silence Yourself, **Adore Life** finds the London-based black-clad female band perfecting their spiky goth/punk sound, which recalls the likes of Penetration and Siouxsie and the Banshees, with a theme that often returns to sexual politics.

Lead singer Jehnny Beth has a stentorian tone but also reveals a more vulnerable side on Adore and Slowing Down The World.

But if you want pure punk attitude, it doesn't come much more withering than the put-down I Need Something New. When In Love is a stand-out track with its questing lyric and incendiary passion whilst Mechanics makes for a dark, apocalyptic closure.

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Charity call for unwanted festive gifts

A WALSALL charity is appealing for unwanted Christmas gifts in order to raise funds. Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity has asked for anyone with seasonal gifts going unused to make a donation ahead of a month of intense fundraising.

Georgie Westley, membership and engagement Manager for the charity, said: "If you received a gift that wasn't quite to your taste this Christmas, we'd love to hear from you.

"We're looking for any new items that will make excellent raffle or hamper prizes,

as we gear up for a busy February of fund-raising events.

"This is a fantastic way to recycle unwanted presents and will help raise money for Well Wishers to improve services for our patients, their families and carers."

From now until Friday 29 January, new but unwanted gifts can be brought along to the Purple Hub in the Walsall Manor Outpatients Centre Corridor, from 10am to 3pm.

For details please contact Georgie Westley on 01922 656643.

Mayor visits support group for Parkinson's sufferers



From left, Walsall Mayor, Angela Underhill, consort John Underhill, Parkinson's UK regional fundraiser Sarah Wakeman and group representative, Bob Broome, of Walsall

A SUPPORT group for Parkinson's sufferers in Walsall had a discussion over its future with the town's Mayor.

Representatives from the Walsall Parkinson's Support Group, which meets once a week at the Forest Arts Centre on Hawbush Road, met with Mayor Councillor Angela Underhill to talk over how to raise attendance numbers.

The group, which provides help to both sufferers of Parkinson's and their carers, is looking for new members and is currently in the process of a 'relaunch' designed to increase its prominence in the public eye.

Group leader Bob Broome, who was diagnosed with the condition in 2013, said: "There are around 450 people in Walsall who live with Parkinson's and we are sometimes lucky to get 20 people.

"We are very grateful for the support of the Mayor, who has said she will do what she can to help get more people to come along.

"She even suggested that she may volunteer herself when she gets some free time."

For more information on how to join the Parkinson's group, call Bob Broome on 07792 271566

MP says CAB's closure likely to cause 'hardship'

THE potential closure of Walsall's Citizens Advice Bureau will leave residents facing 'hardship', an MP has warned.

The service is under threat as part of council plans to axe its funding to save more than £480,000.

People across the borough have come together to try and save the service, with more than 3,000 signatures collected across two petitions.

An online petition, started on change.org, has gathered 660 names while a written counterpart has over 2,100 signatures.

Recognised

MP David Winnick, who represents Walsall North, said substantial cuts to the service would put people in the borough at a 'sharp disadvantage'.

He said: "The local Citizens Advice Bureau is recognised as one of the best in the country.

"In 75 years it has helped so many who otherwise would not probably not have been able to get the same sort of assistance over debts, notices to quit, unfair dismissal and more.

"Many in the borough will be at a sharp

disadvantage if the Council's grant to Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau is substantially reduced.

"There is no shortage of clients, as the CAB officers have made clear.

"It is precisely in areas like this, where low pay is prevalent and where deprivation and hardship is hardly unknown, that CABs have a pivotal role to play.

"The Council, with all its pressing financial problems, should recognise the likely hardship that would occur to present and potential clients if the service is much reduced.

"In some instances at least, any savings would be lost since those involved would go to various council offices to seek help."

As revealed by the Express and Star last week, staff at Walsall's CAB have been sent redundancy letters as Walsall council looks to withdraw its funding for the service.

The CAB employs 38 paid members of staff but have insisted not all of these are at risk of redundancy, despite refusing to say how many had been sent redundancy letters.

One worker at the CAB, who did not want to be named, said the mood was 'down' after the letters were issued and people were now starting to look for new jobs.

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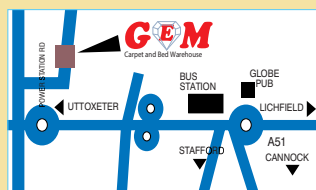


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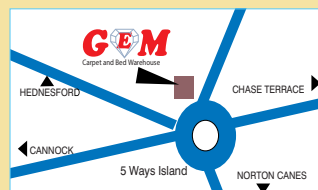


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Heath Hayes WS12 3EA

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Tel: 01543 270652



Walsall Wood

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- We work in partnership with the local and wider community
- We offer a broad range of extra curricular activities
- We have been part of Pelsall life for 150 years



St Michael's

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St. Peter's C.E. (V.C.) Primary School, Stonnall

Telephone: (01543) 372060

Headteacher: Mrs. T.A. Parton
B Ed.Hons, NPQH

Email: office@st.peters.stonnall.staffs.sch.uk
Website: www.st.peters.stonnall.staffs.sch.uk

Main Street,
Stonnall,
Walsall,
West Midlands.
WS9 9EE

**For more
information
or to book a
visit please
contact us**



**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**



About Our School



St. Patrick's RC Primary School is a one form entry school which is located on a quiet road 0.4 miles from Walsall town centre.

There has been a school on this site since 1859 when a day school was established. In 1966, St Patrick's church moved to its current location and St Patrick's school, as we know it, was built on the church's old site. It opened in 1971.

Today we are still serving the community through the delivery of our academic and spiritual guidance in school.

Our Mission

Our primary intention is to lead our children to a living and active faith, to create a secure, happy working environment where valuable learning opportunities are met and where a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation is fostered.

We seek to develop the full potential of all members of our community, and using Jesus Christ as our model we aim to create a loving and caring family where all are valued in an ever changing and challenging society.



Contact Us

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Blue Lane East, Walsall, WS2 8HN.

Headteacher: Mr. G. Gilroy B. Ed Telephone: 01922 720063

E-mail: postbox@st-patricks.walsall.sch.uk

Web: www.st-patricks.walsall.sch.uk

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- KS1 Higher than national figures for L2b+!
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- Higher than national results for the end of Early Years!

Is this the school for you?

Why not arrange a visit and see for yourself?

Please contact the headteacher Mrs R. Patel for further information.

County Bridge Primary School,

Anson Road, Bentley, Walsall, WS2 0DH

Tel : 01922 720718 www.countybridge.walsall.sch.uk
postbox@countybridge.walsall.sch.uk



Celebrating Another Excellent Year Of KS2 Results

- Above average point score of 30.5 demonstrating pupils achieved results well above the National average.
- Percentage of higher attaining pupils achieving Level 6 on tests also exceeded National figures.
- The curriculum at Castlefort is designed to provide exciting & engaging learning activities with appropriate emphasis on English & mathematics skills.
- Excellent pastoral support & a wide range of extra- curricular activities.
- Children can join our school from the age of 2 years old . 'Castle Tots' Nursery offers both fully funded & fee paying places.

Please contact the Headteacher, Jo Wilson for further details.
Visits to our school are warmly welcomed.

Castlefort JMI School, Walsall Wood

Tel: 01543 452158 | www.castlefortschool.co.uk



Living & Learning Together! St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Great Wyrley.

Are you looking for a successful Primary school? Do you want your child to be the best they can be? Then look no further.

- We are a small, friendly and caring primary school situated in Huthill Lane, Great Wyrley WS6 6PG
- In 2015, the school achieved its best ever end of Key Stage 2 results.
- For the second year running, ALL pupils made expected (or better) progress in reading, writing and maths.
- Children experience a varied, rich curriculum and enjoy a range of sporting activities.

Ofsted 2014 states :

"Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted well through exciting learning opportunities, which contribute to their good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning ". If you are interested in finding out more, or would like to arrange a visit, please contact us in one of the following ways

- E-mail us at office@st-thomasmore.staffs.sch.uk
- Phone us on 01922 857075
- Visit our website at www.stthomasmoreprimarygreatwyrley.co.uk

The school also houses a before and after school club (Jozone) which runs from 7.30 a.m. and ends at 6pm

Education



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The cost for the evening is £3.00 per person
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Ivy Suttie



Tuesday, 8pm
The Slade Rooms, W'ton

The comedian from Hull, best known as Dobby in hit C4 comedy series Peep Show, brings her stand-up show about boyfriend hunting, The Actual One.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Nicola Benedetti



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham

Classical star Nicola Benedetti will perform Szymanowski's second violin concerto. Also being performed will be Haydn's Symphony No. 92 and Brahms' fourth.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

The Libertines



Wednesday, 6pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

The Libertines released a highly acclaimed album, Anthems For Doomed Youth, in September last year. They are now on their own arena tour which heads out way next week.
Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Patty Griffin



Sunday, 7pm
Glee Club, B'ham

The Texas-based songstress won the Grammy for her 2010 album Downtown Church and her most recent album, Servant of Love, was released last year.
Visit www.glee.co.uk

POP & ROCK

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The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Usual Suspects

Fri at 9.30pm,
The Knights Quest, Rowley Regis, B65 0EE.
Call B65 0EE

Motionless In White

Fri at 6pm,
Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3LS.
Call 0121 233 1109

Creedence Collection: Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute

Fri at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

Dilly Dally

Mon at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Voodoo Glow Skulls

Wed at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Rebecca Ferguson: Lady Sings The Blues - POSTPONED

Sat at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £35
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Nahko And Medicine For The People

Sat at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Abbanania: Tribute To Abba

Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Seyes: Yes Experience

Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
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One Night Of Rock

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Call 0844 871 3011

G2 Definitive Genesis: Genesis Tribute

Sat at 9pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Libertines

Wed at 6pm, £25.70 - £35.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Eradikator

Sat at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Open Mic Night

Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Temperance Movement

Mon at 7pm, £14
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Battle of The Bands Heats

Fri, Sun, 7.30pm
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions

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Call 0121 200 3030

Aaron Watson

Wed at 7pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Patty Griffin

Sun at 7pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Irish Music Session

Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

JAZZ & BLUES

Blues Club

Sat at 4pm - 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
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Reuben James Jazz Trio

Fri at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Del Camino

Thu at 10pm, £0 - £5
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Kenny Thomas

Wed at 8.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Sax In The City: The Notebenders

Fri at 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Solid Soul

Fri at 9pm, Sat at 9pm,
£5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Story Of Ronnie Scott's

Sat at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Room 4 the Blues - Session

Fri, 8pm
The Claregate Pub, Codsall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Lydia Granville Quartet

Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
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Singalong With The CBSO: Haydn's The Creation

Sun at 1.30pm, 7pm, £13.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16: Nicola Benedetti: Szymanowski

Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

KS3 Schools' Concerts

Fri at 11am, 1pm, £5
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THEATRE

Strictly Come Dancing

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, Sun at 1.30pm, 6.30pm,
£35 - £65
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Freezin

Sat at 7.30pm,
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

ZooResidence Showcase: Nursery Rhymes: Remixed

Wed at 2pm, 7pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Entertaining Angels by Richard Everett

Mon - Thu at 7.30pm
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

The Boy Who Bit Picasso

Fri at 10am, 1.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

A Beautiful Ending

Tue at 8pm - 10.20pm, Wed at 8pm - 10.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Ballet Theatre UK: The Snow Queen

Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £17
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Cabaret XXL 2016

Thu at 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Death Of A Salesman

Fri at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm,
7.45pm, Mon at 7.45pm, Wed at 7.45pm, Thu at 7.45pm,
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Legend Of King Arthur

Sun at 7.30pm, £10
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

The Great Gatsby

Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

The Midnight Soup

Sat at 2pm, 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Rocky Horror Show

Mon at 8pm, Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Lady Lust

Fri at 8pm - 10pm, Sat at 8pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Macbeth

Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
£8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Peter Pan

Fri at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sun at 2pm, 6pm, £17 - £31.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Snowman

Fri at 2pm, 7pm, Sat at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Sun at 3pm,
£13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Aladdin

Sun at 5.15pm, Tue at 2pm, 7.15pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.15pm,
Thu at 12pm, 12pm, 7.15pm, £14 - £42
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Birmingham Is Funny: Foghorn Unscripted - What The Dickens?

Sat at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

No Such Thing As A Fish With The QI Elves: Live Tour

Sat at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Ivy Suttie: The Actual One

Tue at 8pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy

Fri, Sat at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met

Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Dave Gorman: Gets Straight To The Point (The PowerPoint)

Tue at 8pm, £24
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The REP And Innovation In Theatre Design: Talk

Thu at 12pm, £4.50 - £12
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Beta International 2016

Sun at 9.30am - 6pm, Mon at 9.30am - 6pm, Tue at 9.30am - 4.30pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Monster Energy Arenacross Tour

Sat at 7pm, Sun at 3pm
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

CLUBBING

Quadrophenia Night

Sat - Sun at 8pm - 1am,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Return of Rocky's raunchy musical



Do the time warp again with those naughty s-extraterrestrials when The Rocky Horror Show arrives in Birmingham

SINCE its first appearance at London's Royal Court Theatre in June 1973, Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show has become the world's favourite rock 'n' roll musical.

It has been performed for over 40 years and has been translated into more than 20 languages, as well as becoming a cult movie.

Director Christopher Luscombe created a new production to celebrate

the 40th anniversary and this version of the show is back by popular demand, embarking on a year-long national tour including a stint at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

X Factor finalist and chart-topper Diana Vickers will star in the role of Janet Weiss, opposite Emmerdale actor Ben Freeman as Brad Majors. S Club 7 star Paul Cattermole will join

them as rocker Eddie and Dr Scott. West End star Liam Tamne, who shot to fame on The Voice, has been cast as transsexual alien icon Frank N Furter.

Following over 900 performances of the 40th anniversary tour, Kristian Lavercombe returns as Riff Raff. The musical extravaganza features classic songs including Science Fiction/Double Feature, Dammit Janet and, of course, The Time-Warp.



Double double toil and trouble

ACTORS John Heffernan and Anna Maxwell Martin will star as the most famous power couple in drama in an ambitious and highly physical new staging of Shakespeare's Macbeth, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Scottish nobleman Macbeth, inspired by the prophecy of three witches, embarks on a murderous journey of power, treachery and paranoia in his bid to gain the Scottish throne, encouraged by his ambitious wife.

Maxwell Martin (pictured left as Lady Macbeth) is a twice Bafta award winning actress, for Bleak House and Poppy Shakespeare, also known for Death Comes to Pemberley. She was most recently seen on TV screens in The Frankenstein Chronicles, Midwinter of the Spirit and the BBC's Christmas whodunnit And Then There Were None.

Luther

Heffernan, who plays Macbeth, is one of this country's leading stage actors with the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also recently been seen on screen in Dickensian and Luther.

The production has been directed by Carrie Cracknell and choreographer Lucy Guerin, who also collaborated on the National Theatre's acclaimed production of Medea.

The Rep will stage several Shakespeare plays this year, including Twelfth Night and King Lear, to mark the 400th anniversary of his death. See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Strictly fabulous as celebs keep dancing

THE Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour returns to Birmingham for a fab-ulous ninth year.

Leading the pack will be this year's Glitter Ball winner Jay McGuiness, from boyband The Wanted. He will be partnered again by professional Aliona Vilani, who has announced that she is quitting the BBC TV show.

Other celebrities booked in for the three-day Birmingham run from tomorrow (Fri) to Sunday are Georgia May Foote, Helen George, Frankie Bridge, Ainsley Harriott, Anita Rani, and Jake Wood. They will be joining the 2016 tour host Mel Giedroyc, together with judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli.

Picasso show for family audiences

AN INTERACTIVE theatre show that offers audience members a chance to make art is being staged in Wolverhampton.

The Boy Who Bit Picasso is at Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, on Saturday at 2.30pm. There will be performances for schools the day before. The show by Untied Artists and Oxford Playhouse brings artist Antony Penrose's children's book to life and combines storytelling, music and art. It tells the true tale of how a young boy – Penrose himself – became friends with the great Spanish artist.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £4 children on 01902 572090.

Singer puts back tour to the autumn

REBECCA Ferguson has rescheduled her Lady Sings the Blues tour, postponing her Birmingham concert for nearly ten months.

The X Factor finalist, who was runner-up to Matt Cardle in 2010, won fans for her husky vocals and was due to perform at the Symphony Hall on January 23. The third album by the 29-year-old Liverpoolian features her versions of classic songs by jazz singer Billie Holiday. But the concert has now been moved to November 2.

Miss Ferguson said: "I have made the decision to change the dates for my tour and focus on getting the (new) album ready."



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CHOICE



Eva Kor

The Girl Who Forgave the Nazis (Channel 4, 8pm)
In the summer of 2015 former Auschwitz clerk Oskar Groening – then aged 93 – was charged as an accessory to the murder of more than 300,000 Jews at the infamous death camp. During the subsequent trial, 81-year-old Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor was called to give her testimony on the medical experiments she endured at the hands of Josef Mengele. Finding herself face-to-face with a Nazi for the first time in more than 70 years, Eva chose to embrace Groening, publicly forgiving him despite the role he played in the deaths of most of her family. This documentary explores the impact of her decision to absolve Groening, who was ultimately sentenced to four years in prison.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open. **2.00** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Now You See It. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Soap stars Joe Swash and John Altman, Nick Pickard and Ali Bastian, Victoria Bush and Zarah Abrahams, and Sharon Maughan and Tina Holey take part in the unorthodox quiz show.

6.50 The Getaway Car. Brothers Mitz and Dee, husband-and-wife duo Charlie and Kate, best friends Chloe and Bethany, sisters Val and Babs and new couple Joseph and Karen tackle the Getaway Car circuit.

7.45 The Voice UK. The spinning-chair singing contest continues, as Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson appraise the talents of another round of hopeful stars in the third of seven "blind auditions". This week, Waterloo Road actor Tom Milner seeks to impress the coaches as he takes to the stage, and Irene Alano-Rhodes, the former star of Miss Saigon, displays her vocal skills. Dubliner Lauren Lapsley-Browne hopes her unique voice will make an impact, and eccentric rocker Billy Black's performance sparks a conflict on the panel. Plus, Brooke Waddie, the daughter of former England footballer Chris Waddie, also takes to the stage.

9.05 Casualty. An office worker makes use of her stay in hospital to get her own back on her prankster colleague, and Noel mistakenly believes Big Mac saved him from a vicious mugger.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News. Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League games; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life. (2003) Action adventure sequel.

1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **6.55 Film:** Animal Farm. (1954) **8.05 Film:** Bye Bye Birdie. (1963) **9.55 Film:** Race to Witch Mountain. (2009) **11.30** Island Stories. **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **1.30 Film:** Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **3.00 Film:** 4 for Texas. (1963) Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. **4.50** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Victorian Bakers. (R)

6.50 Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson is appointed manager of the Eastgate branch of the bank. Comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R)

7.20 Film: War Horse. (2011) A farmer's son forms a close bond with a horse he trains, but is forced to give the animal up when it is sold to the British army during the First World War. The horse passes through various owners on both sides as he travels across the battlefields of France while the boy refuses to give up on being reunited. Steven Spielberg's drama based on Michael Morpurgo's book, starring Jeremy Irvine.

9.35 **QI XL.** Panellists Julia Ziemiro, Matt Lucas and David Mitchell and Alan Davies compete, as Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz show. In this edition, the host meditates on matters medieval and macabre, and as usual, he poses questions that are so difficult, points are awarded for the answers he finds most interesting.

10.20 Insert Name Here. Jennifer Saunders, Romesh Ranganathan, Jessica Hynes and Suzannah Lipscomb join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. (R)

10.50 Live at the Apollo. Mock the Week host Dara Ó Briain comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Zoe Lyons and Paul Chowdhry. (R)

11.35 International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. Action from the semi-final matches in the Open Singles tournament, at the Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.

12.35 Film: Walkabout. (1971) **2.15 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.25** Tipping Point. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** The Saturday Night Story. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! More comical mishaps submitted for approval by viewers.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamarah host the final heat, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the obstacle-course challenge.

8.00 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness invites four more men to try their hands at winning a date with one of his 30 single ladies. This time, the would-be suitors are James, a caravan salesman from Skegness, London-based fireman David, Milton Keynes plumber Sam and Al, an American car fanatic and musician. Each of the men enters the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy gives viewers a chance to catch up with last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. US actor John Krasinski, actress and comedienne Catherine Tate and Scottish stand-up star Kevin Bridges join Jonathan in the studio, and Rudimental perform live.

10.15 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.30 Film: The Chronicles of Riddick. (2004) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Vin Diesel.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** International Snowdon Race. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Haydock Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day of the competition in Llanelli and teaching assistant Ainsley wants to educate her guests, while serving up an authentic Russian-themed dinner party. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go in search of the lost route between London and the sea, which has not been fully open for over 200 years and requires four different boats to traverse now. They leave the Thames at Teddington and travel through the Surrey and Sussex countryside before arriving at Guildford, and a canal-side theatre where they have both regularly performed. The final leg of the trip brings them to the River Arun before reaching the English Channel. (R)

8.00 The Girl Who Forgave the Nazis. Documentary investigating the survivor of Holocaust widower Eva Kor's decision to forgive Oskar Groening, the 93-year-old former Nazi who once worked as a clerk at Auschwitz.

9.00 Film: Oblivion. (2013) Premiere. A repairman is assigned to salvage the remaining resources from Earth, which has been left a devastated wasteland after a war with an alien race. He discovers a human survivor on the surface of the planet, an encounter that exposes secrets from the past that threaten the future of the human race. Sci-fi adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.

11.30 Film: Priest. (2011) Fantasy thriller, with Paul Bettany.

1.10 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.15** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **4.05** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.25** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.20** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **5.20** 5 News Weekend. **5.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)

6.20 Ice Road Truckers. Lisa and Todd venture onto a route that has not been used before, while a crash threatens to bring Alex's season to an end. (R)

7.05 World War II in Colour. This edition looks at Hitler's plans to push his forces into the Soviet Union, beginning with the launch of Operation Barbarossa in the summer of 1941. (R)

8.00 World War II Battlefield Recovery. A four-man team of excavation experts sets out to retrieve Second World War relics from the battlefields and war-zones of the Eastern Front, telling the stories of fallen soldiers by examining their remains.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the second tier of English football, including Queens Park Rangers v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Loftus Road, Birmingham City v Ipswich Town at St Andrew's, Brighton & Hove Albion v Huddersfield Town at the Amex Stadium and Leeds United v Bristol City at Elland Road.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present all the goals from League One and League Two, where fixtures included Burton Albion v Shrewsbury Town and Bristol Rovers v Plymouth Argyle.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Rufus Hound and actress Jorgie Porter go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Let the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.05** Film: Looper (2012) **10.55** Russell Howard's Good News **11.25** Family Guy **1.35** Siblings **2.05** Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) **3.45** Glastonbury: The Udder Side **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.55** Music Moguls: Masters of Pop **11.55** Duets at the BBC **12.55** Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown **1.55** Top of the Pops **3.20** Sounds of the Eighties **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.05 Ninja Warrior UK **12.05** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.05** Scorpion **2.05** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **4.20** Minion Madness **4.40** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.25** Film: Jurassic Park III (2001) **8.15** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **9.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.15** Film: American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **12.25** Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 A Touch of Frost **1.50** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Marchlands **1.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** Man About the House **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Storage Wars **2.20** Film: The Sting (1973) **5.00** Film: Apache (1954) **6.50** Film: The Hanging Tree (1959) **9.00** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **11.05** Film: The Kingdom (2007) **1.20** Inside Manchester City **2.15** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs: At the Movies **2.00** Film: The Core (2003) **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: This Means War (2012) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.50** Virtually Famous **1.40** The Inbetweeners **2.45** The IT Crowd **3.35** Charmed **4.15** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Biggles (1986) **1.00** The Princess Diaries (2001) **3.15** The War of the Worlds (1953) **5.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **7.05** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **8.55** Youth Interview Special **9.00** Red Eye (2005) **10.35** Mindscape (2013) **12.30** Blood and Chocolate (2007) **2.25** Oki's Movie (2010) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



James May's Cars of the People (BBC2, 9pm)
New series. The former Top Gear presenter examines how the car industry in Germany and Japan blossomed following the Second World War, becoming manufacturing giants that far outstripped the Allied nations that had defeated them. He test drives some of the vehicles Germany and Japan produced during the post-war period, as well as an assortment of other classic cars, including E-Types and Mustangs. He also reveals the sad tale of the Austin Allegro, a vehicle that had a devastating impact on the British car industry.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **Weather**. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flot II (R) **3.00** The Truth About Sugar. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Countryfile. **6.30** **Film: Real Steel**. **Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur**. The story of how more than 220 dinosaur bones were found in the Argentinian desert, where they were found to have come from a previously undiscovered species, which is the largest land dwelling animal known to have existed. David Attenborough visits the archaeological dig and a laboratory where the remains are being cleaned and analysed with lead scientist Dr Diego Pol and evolutionary biologist Ben Garrod, and meets animators, model-makers, paleontologists and anatomy experts who are working to reconstruct what the 37 metre-long creature would have looked like. **7.30** **Still Open All Hours**. David Jason stars as Granville in this follow-up to Open All Hours, now running the shop with his son Leroy after inheriting the business from Arkwright. **8.00** **Call the Midwife**. Barbara faces the biggest test of her career. Nurse Crane learns to speak Spanish, and Sister Evangelina helps a woman with breastfeeding, leading to unforeseen consequences. **9.00** **War & Peace**. Natasha encounters temptation during Andrei's absence. Countess Rostova and Anna both try to find wealthy wives for their sons, and Pierre grows frustrated with married life. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the day's two Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Swansea City at Goodison Park. **11.30** **Film: Private Peaceful**. (2012) Premiere. Drama based on Michael Morpurgo's novel, starring Jack O'Connell. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.00** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday. **6.00** **Film: Real Steel**. (2011) In the future, boxing matches between eight-foot robots are one of the world's biggest sporting draws. A washed-up human prizefighter finds an abandoned android and sets about restoring it to become a potential champion, a project that reunites him with his estranged 11-year-old son. Sci-fi drama, starring Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo and Evangeline Lilly. Edited for daytime broadcast. **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. Evan Davis gives another group of would-be entrepreneurs the chance to impress panelists Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman and Sarah Willingham with their business ideas. Products featured in the show include a portable drum kit that does not need drums and an inflatable tanning tent. **9.00** **James May's Cars of the People**. New series. The former Top Gear presenter examines how the car industry in Germany and Japan blossomed following the Second World War, while Britain's own manufacturers struggled. **10.00** **Film: Blood Diamond**. (2006) Smuggler Danny Archer ends up in prison in war-torn Sierra Leone in 1999, where he meets Solomon, a Mendie fisherman separated from his family by guerrillas. Danny pledges to help the desperate man rescue his son, who has been forcibly conscripted as a child soldier, in return for a rare pink diamond that Solomon had hidden away before his capture. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou and Jennifer Connelly. **12.10** **Film: Heist**. (2001) A thief is blackmailed into pulling off a robbery, and also suspects his wife is planning to leave him. David Mamet's thriller, with Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito and Rebecca Pidgeon. **1.55** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.15** **Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service**. (1969) James Bond adventure, starring George Lazenby. **6.00** **Regional Programme**: Weather. **6.15** **ITV News**: Weather. **6.30** **Planet's Got Talent**. New series. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring blindfolded sword-swallowing and a group of stuntmen crashing a bus. **7.00** **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands**. A new leader is to be chosen as Herot faces being torn apart by civil war between the tribes, leaving Rheda faced with the possibility of fighting to remain in power. **8.00** **Endeavour**. The detective is approached by a former mentor from his college days, who asks Morse to ensure the safety of his wife. However, the assignment leaves him contemplating his future with the police force. Meanwhile, a murder in the world of fashion stirs up old gangland conflicts in the city. Shaun Evans stars. Last in the series. **10.00** **ITV News**: Weather. **10.15** **The Day Hitler Died**. Documentary exploring the fuhrer's final hours in his Berlin bunker as Russian forces closed in, featuring previously unseen interviews with eyewitnesses, recorded in 1948. **11.15** **Perspectives: Bruce Forsyth on Sammy Davis Jr**. The veteran entertainer explores the life and work of the US singer, dancer and actor. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**. (2009) The living exhibits at New York's Museum of Natural History are shipped to Washington's Smithsonian Institution – along with the artefact that brought them to life in the first place. Nightwatchman Larry tries to retrieve it, only to find the contents of the world's largest museum have been reanimated, including a pharaoh determined to take over the world. Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller. **8.00** **Walking the Himalayas**. Levison Wood and guide Binod Parivar face a 30-mile trek through the jungles of Eastern Nepal, with no roads and few people to tell them they are heading in the right direction. Their journey comes to an end in Bhutan, a country rarely visited by foreigners, where they visit a holy mountain to join the celebrations for the king's birthday, and listen to local children's tales of yeti. Last in the series. **9.00** **Deutschland 83**. The bug in Linda's desk is discovered, and Moritz is given two options – persuade the secretary to defect or kill her. Alex turns to Tschibier following an argument with his father. **10.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Sean Lock and Rob Beckett compete against Jon Richardson and Carlad Lloyd in the comedy panel show, while Sam Simmons helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R) **11.05** **Film: 48 Hrs**. (1982) A hard-bitten cop temporarily releases a fast-talking criminal from prison to help him track down two escaped fugitives. Comedy thriller, starring Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy. **12.50** **Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic**. (R) **1.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Undercover Boss USA. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.35** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** **Film: Drilbit Taylor**. (2008) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. **3.05** **Film: Space Camp**. (1986) Children's sci-fi adventure, starring Kate Capshaw. **5.05** **Film: Labyrinth**. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. **7.05** **Film: The Wedding Planner**. (2001) A single woman who organises weddings for a living is swept off her feet by a dashing doctor, but her dreams of him becoming her husband suffer a setback when she discovers she has already been hired to organise his marriage to another woman. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey, Bridgette Wilson-Sampras, Justin Chambers and Joanna Gleason. Edited for language. **8.55** **5 News Weekend**. **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother**. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room. **10.00** **Celebrity Botched Up Bodies**. Leading surgeons repair household names damaged by cosmetic surgery. **10.55** **Film: Mr & Mrs Smith**. (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. **1.10** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.40** The Voice UK **9.00** **Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance** (1995) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Siblings **1.00** Adam Pearson: Freak Show **2.00** True North: Keeping It Country **2.40** London Fashion Week: Grace Victory's Top Picks **3.05** London Fashion Week: Abby Clancy's Top Picks **3.30** Emergency Rescue Down Under **4.00** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Len Goodman's Dancing Feet: The British Ballroom Story **10.00** Storyville: The Great Gangster Film Fraud **11.25** The Mystery of Murder: A Horizon Guide **12.25** The Brain with David Eagleman **1.25** Blink: A Horizon Guide to the Senses **2.25** Sounds of the Eighties **2.55** Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown **3.55** Close **ITV2**
11.55 Take Me Out **1.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.15** **Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas** (2000) **4.00** **Film: The Mummys** (1999) **6.20** **Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore** (2010) **8.00** **Film: Skyfall** (2012) **10.55** **Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift** (2006) **1.00** Reality Bites **1.45** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3**
12.55 The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Me and My Guide Dog **9.00** Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Kindness of Strangers **11.35** **Film: The Hours** (2002) **1.45** Secret Smile **3.00** On the Buses **3.30** Heartbeat **5.10** Rising Damp **ITV4**
12.20 **Film: The 'Burbs** (1989) **2.25** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit** (1977) **4.15** **Film: The Sting** (1973) **7.00** The Classic Car Show **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** **Film: Exit Wounds** (2001) **11.10** **Film: Sleepers** (1996) **2.05** Ax Men **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** **Film: The Big Bang Theory** (1989) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.15** The IT Crowd **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.40** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 Titanic (1953) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.50** The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.40** Carry On Behind (1975) **6.30** Anna Karenina (2012) **9.00** Bringing Down the House (2003) **11.05** Splice (2009)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Willed to Kill, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A homicide detective must face up to her own troubled childhood when a serial killer develops a twisted obsession with her. Thriller, with Sarah Jane Morris and Michael Riley. (2012)

TUESDAY

Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson, Jack Falahee and Mary McCormack. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

The Gourmet Detective: A Healthy Place to Die, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Charming culinary expert Henry Ross is invited to give a speech at a food conference at a luxury resort, but when a journalist guest goes missing, and later turns up dead, Henry once again finds himself joining forces with no-nonsense police detective Maggie Price to solve the crime. Detective comedy sequel, starring Dylan Neal and Brooke Burns. (2015)



Fatal Attraction, Friday, Channel 4, 12.55am

THURSDAY

My Daughter Must Live, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers that her daughter needs a liver transplant, but medical tests reveal that her husband is not the girl's father. She is forced to track down her former lover, who was last seen fleeing for his life having crossed a corrupt businessman, but the quest jeopardises both her marriage and her life. Thriller, starring Joelle Carter and Madeleine Martin. (2014)

FRIDAY

Fatal Attraction, Channel 4, 12.55am

A married lawyer has a one-night stand with a business associate while his wife and children are out of town. He hopes to keep his infidelity a secret, but she is determined to continue the relationship, and begins obsessively stalking him and his unsuspecting family. Thriller, starring Michael Douglas, Glenn Close and Anne Archer. (1987)

New series serves up a simple yet tasty treat

You just can't keep a good woman down, which perhaps explains why Mary Berry is back on the box this week – not just once, but twice.

She will be judging, alongside regular cohort Paul Hollywood, the efforts of a variety of famous faces who have agreed to take part in the new run of The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, which begins on Wednesday.

But before then, we can catch her in action in this offering, one that takes us back to basics.

Many TV cooks have, over the years, attempted to teach the nation to do more than just open a tin of beans, and they've done it with varying degrees of success. We reckon Mary will turn out to be the best of the lot.

Rather than going through such mundane tasks as boiling an egg or cooking pasta the right way, she offers handy practical tips on how to prepare simple but tasty and quick recipes that will keep everyone at home happy – and even serve you well if you're

organising a dinner party for family or friends.

Commissioning editor Tom Edwards says: "Mary is one of the ultimate icons of cookery programming. It's a delight to serve her latest offering to a BBC Two audience.

"This series connects with something that is essential to Mary – delicious food, made foolproof."

Sadly, Mary's TV career hasn't been foolproof of late. Hollywood attempted to take the Bake off to, er, Hollywood, when he made The American Baking Competition in 2013, but it bombed, never to rise again.

Mary followed in his footsteps late in 2015 with The Great Holiday Baking Show, which aped our own offering as closely as it could. It should have had 'success' written all over it, but instead it received the same kind of reception as Hollywood would give a tart with a soggy bottom – it lost almost a million viewers in a week.

Despite this setback, Mary is still keen on bringing her homespun wisdom to as many people as possible – and it seems that, if

she is attracted to a project, she will grab it with both hands. It's an approach she credits to a three-month spell she had in hospital after contracting polio as a child; she claims that being away from her family toughened her up and inspired her to make the most of every opportunity.

Mary will turn 81 in March, an age when many people are slowing down and enjoying their retirement. Instead, she heads back into the kitchen – something that delights her army of fans.

In the first edition of this series, she regales viewers with memories of her life, family and friends while demonstrating how to prepare five dishes suitable for special days and celebrations, including salmon fillets with herbs and red pepper and a side dish of spirals of vegetables as well as an indulgent treat of lobster tails with aioli and asparagus.

And if you forget the instructions, as you might have already guessed, Mary has written a book to accompany the series, which is published on Thursday.



Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Crashing

Channel 4, 10pm

Life in the dilapidated hospital rumbles on, and we're enjoying every minute of watching it pan out. Phoebe Waller-Bridge's sitcom is an absolute delight, focusing on a group of people who have set up home in a disused building, paying minimal rent while attempting to prevent it becoming derelict. It's a great premise, and one that allows a real mixed bag of characters to take up residence. Among them is resident Irish curry chef Anthony, who this week organises an evening of spicy delights. Unfortunately, his efforts look set to be ignored as the event descends into chaos that leaves not just the fruits of his labour on the floor. Meanwhile, relationships come to the fore as Fred introduces his housemates to his new boyfriend.

TUESDAY

The Mad World of Donald Trump

Channel 4, 9pm

He's already a multi-billionaire tycoon, but now Donald Trump is out to become the President of the USA – and by extension, the most powerful person on the planet. His campaign is already one of the most controversial the US has ever seen, complete with plans to ban Muslims from entering the States

and to construct a wall to keep out Mexican immigrants. However, his promise to 'make America great again' has clearly resonated with many voters, and he's currently leading the polls for the Republican presidential nomination. Here, Matt Frei tries to uncover the man behind the brand, exploring Trump's colourful past and asking if he really could make it all the way to the White House.

WEDNESDAY

Holocaust Memorial Day

BBC2, 7pm

With more than 200 survivors in attendance, a unique commemoration at Guildhall, London marks Holocaust Memorial Day and remembers those persecuted and murdered by the Nazis, and those who died in later genocides. The ceremony includes personal testimony, music and poetry, with actors Sheila Hancock, Robert Lindsay, Kevin Whately and Freddie Fox taking part. Plus, the internationally renowned choir of Clare College Cambridge performs, and acclaimed violinist Jennifer Pike plays the theme from Schindler's List.

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off

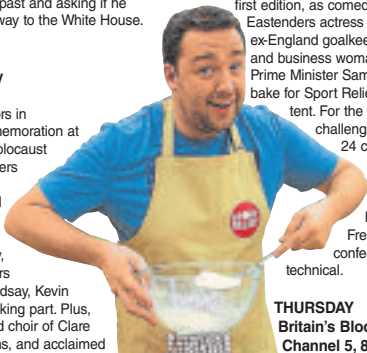
BBC1, 8.30pm

The celebrity edition of The Great British Bake Off returns, with each episode featuring four celebrities as they tackle three challenges set by judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry. Mel Giedroyc hosts the first edition, as comedian Jason Manford, Eastenders actress Maddy Hill, ex-England goalkeeper David James, and business woman and wife of the Prime Minister Samantha Cameron bake for Sport Relief in the Bake Off tent. For the signature challenge, they must make 24 canapes using rough puff pastry made from scratch, before creating Paris Brest, a French pastry confection, in the technical.

THURSDAY

Britain's Bloody Crown

Channel 5, 8pm



The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Historian Dan Jones's part-

dramatised journey through the War of the Roses reaches its thrilling conclusion tonight. At the centre of the story is Margaret Beaufort, a woman who could be described as being the power behind the throne. She was the mother of Henry Tudor, the man who defeated Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, and who was eventually crowned as Henry VII. Jones begins Mary's story in January 1457 when, at 13, two months after her husband's death, she gave birth to Henry, and set about doing whatever was necessary to protect her son and keep in her the monarch's good books. But it was her manipulation of certain events, enabling Henry to take control of the country, that remains Mary's biggest achievement.

FRIDAY

MOTD Live: The FA Cup

BBC1, 7.30pm

Derby County v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.55pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the match from the fourth round of the famous competition, which takes place at the iPro Stadium. The Rams – chasing promotion back to the Premier League for the first time since the 2007/08 season – will fancy their chances against the Red Devils, who have come under fire this season for playing negative football and suffering some shock defeats.

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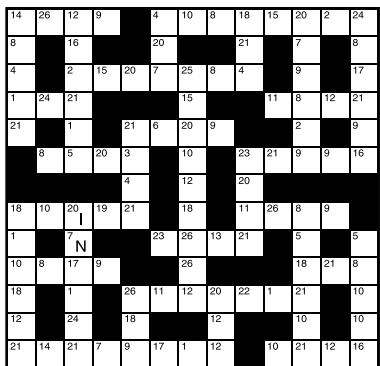
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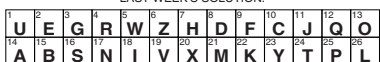
BRAIN GYM No.361

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

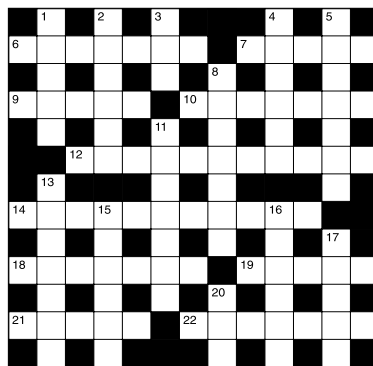
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 6 & 7Ac. Distress call from deprived fishermen, we hear! (4,3,5)
7. See 6 Across
9. A kind of driver for the propeller (5)
- 10 & 13Dn. Mail intended for London? (7,7)
12. Transport for one who wishes to retire (8-3)
14. Disease won't upset this resort (7,4)
18. It's at no different boarding place (7)
19. 1Dn. & 20Dn. Their job isn't to prevent daylight robbery! (5-8)
21. Manage to get through the exercise (5)
22. See 11 Down

Down

1. See 19 Across
2. Expose the facts about meat (6)
3. Potter needs it - that's a hint (3)
4. Successfully handling a kind of saw (6)
5. It annually contains an astronomical amount of information (7)
8. A trial's disrupted by cowboys' equipment (7)
- 11 & 22Ac. Set out for the mountains, if you have one! (4,3,7)
13. See 10 Across
15. Pay for the bench (6)
16. Removes moisture from the arenas, we hear (6)
17. Talks in church at services (5)
20. See 19 Across



Quick Clues:

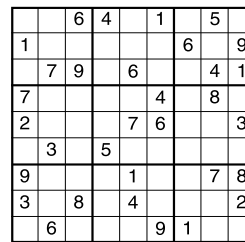
Across

6. Generous (7)
7. Hoist (5)
9. Fashion (5)
10. Arrange (7)
12. Dishonour (11)
14. In brackets (11)
18. Twist (7)
19. Horse (5)
21. Portion (5)
22. Sorrow (7)

Down

1. Smaller (5)
2. Deny (6)
3. Whim (3)
4. Dictator (6)
5. Quibble (7)
8. Violinist (7)
11. Authors (7)
13. Pithy (7)
15. Allure (6)
16. Set (6)
17. Poetry (5)
20. Beam (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grained; 7 Auric; 9 Ace; 10 Revolving; 12 Misanthrope; 15 Sit-down meal; 17 Take place; 19 Dot; 21 Lease; 22 Hastier. Down: 1 Brace; 2 Tip; 3 Meter; 4 Cut-throat; 5 Kidnaps; 8 Bottom; 11 Wild beast; 13 As well; 14 Minaret; 16 Moses; 18 Char; 20 Sly. QUICK - Across: 6 Conceal; 7 Tease; 9 Fee; 10 Dejection; 12 Ups-and-downs; 15 Yellow fever; 17 Occupying; 19 Elk; 21 Under; 22 Awkward. Down: 1 Cover; 2 Act; 3 Base; 4 Destroyer; 5 Astound; 8 Meddle; 11 Applauded; 13 Always; 14 Descend; 16 Alert; 18 News; 20 Own.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What, in film-making, is a blimp?
2. Between which two countries is the Brenner Pass?
3. In which century did printer William Caxton live?
4. Who was the Muse of history in Greek mythology?
5. What is the international car registration for Denmark?
6. In which year was the Eiffel Tower erected?
7. What is the term for a person who makes arrows?
8. In which country are one hundred grosz worth one zloty?
9. What was the real name of Al Jolson?
10. What sort of animal is a kob?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pax; 2 Pickwick Papers; 3 12th August; 4 Offenbach; 5 Subscriber Trunk Dialling; 6 Jean Cocteau; 7 A breed of domestic fowl; 8 Sibelius; 9 Japan; 10 Pacific. Niner: OBSTINACY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7517 gives a song,
67894 gives a dance,
342219 gives a game.



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The Manor House of Whittington, formerly the Whittington Pub, on the A449



Camembert with rosemary and garlic

To the Manor House born and fed with service fit for royalty

STANDING outside The Manor House at Whittington I really felt I should be wearing twinset and pearls, not jeans and a jumper.

It looks rather grand and posh from the outside as well as cosy and inviting. The exterior gives little hint as to what is inside.

I was expecting a quaint, simple sleek interior. But what is actually waiting is a modern, contemporary, clean finish mixing a touch of traditional style with a more quirky and eclectic look.

The Grade-I listed building dates back to 1310 when it was built by Sir William de Whittington and apparently welcomed royalty during its historic past. It reopened last November after a major refurbishment of what was once The Whittington Inn.

Thankfully the bright yellow exterior has

Lisa Williams reports

long gone as is the tired and dated interior. It's been lovingly restored, with a £1.5 million price tag.

My boyfriend and I, along with both sets of parents, ventured in. The bright, glowing flames from an open fire were the first thing we saw. The bar area is airy and light.

Our table was comfy and intimate but a little bit too near the kitchen as we kept hearing the chef shout 'service', but it turns out this was also a good thing as we could see the food coming out and the pizzas being made. All of which looked scrumptious.

It had only been open a week so we were prepared for teething problems. There were a few, I'll get to them later.

We sat taking in the menu. The online version was not the same. My parents were ready for a turkey dinner and a risotto dish

neither of which featured. We quizzed our waitress, Stacey, who went to find out what was going on. Apparently it's the wrong menu online. Oops! Hopefully this is now resolved. Most was the same though so it was no great drama.

Charm

Service was slow at times but the staff, who were friendly and lovely, were probably finding their feet.

Drinks arrived, orders were taken and we sat back to take in the new decor. Rich burgundy and teal added a bright touch to the classic olde worlde charm.

For starters we'd gone for a couple of Camembert sharers with great hunks of toasted sourdough bread and a sticky onion jam on the side. It was gorgeously gooey.

For the mains I'd gone for a pretty basic pizza, less is more. Marinated buffalo mozz-

arella, mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes and basil on the best base I've ever tasted.

Mum had gone for the butternut squash tart. She loved the flavours but the potato salad was a little dry with no dressing. Dad had the Jospoer roasted half chicken, in beer, thyme and malt butter and enjoyed it.

The fish and chips were also a success as the boyfriend's mum tucked in. For the boyfriend and his father burgers arrived, great stacks of chargrilled, perfectly pink in the middle. But... the burgers were cold. They were swiftly and politely replaced with plenty of apologies.

Some of us saved room for dessert. I was defeated but two portions of the dark chocolate and raspberry brownie were ordered.

Full, sated and happy, we all agreed we would return soon. While the food does need a teeny tiny bit of improving, the four stars go to the staff.




GRAND OPENING

20th January 2016

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Choosing the right agent for your home

Selecting which estate agency to sell your home (your biggest asset) can be worrying for anyone. You can make your decision more straightforward by following a few simple rules:

The first thing to do when searching for a quality estate agent is to check that they belong to a professional body like the NAEA. This is because all our members have to complete an accredited qualification on estate agency and are bound by strict rules. Selecting an agent who is one of our members will ensure your peace of mind as they offer a solid understanding of the market, and furthermore, we offer you a fair complaints procedure.

A great help when selecting an agent is reputation. If family, friends, neighbours or people you know have had a good experience with a particular agent, then this can be a great help in making your decision.

Look out for the number of 'for sale' signs and in particular 'sold' signs around your local area. This will tell you which agents are most popular, and therefore can generate more leads for you.

Advertisements for properties in the local newspapers will also tell you which agents stand out from the rest and also tell you which areas the agents cover. The local press will help to inform you how the local market is performing. This empowers you when talking to agents, buyers and interested parties.

Make sure you get on well with your chosen agent – this will be invaluable during the whole process.

Remember, choosing a member of the NAEA offers higher standards, protection and a complaints procedure for you. You can search for NAEA members at <http://www.naea.co.uk/find-agent/>

Making your home more attractive

There's a range of things you can do to make your home more attractive when you decide to put it on the market, from reorganising the furniture to tidying the garden.

A welcoming kitchen is one of the biggest attractions for potential house buyers. Whether you have a comfortable family oriented meeting place or a stylish singletons galley, the kitchen is most often the heart of the home.

Regardless of your budget, there are a number of simple ways you can maximise its attraction to buyers and speed up the sale of your house: Replacing your entire kitchen to attract buyers is not always necessary. Often the cost of installing a new kitchen outweighs the value it will add to your asking price. Like all home decor, the kitchen will still be subject to personal taste, so if it does not appeal to your buyers they will refit it upon moving in anyway. If your kitchen is very dated, simple changes can make all the difference. Painting the cupboard doors, replacing handles or taps and re-grouting the tiles can all give a new lease of life.

Clean and de-clutter! Viewers may even look in your cupboards so ensure shelves are cleaned and all contents are organised. Any pet bowls should go outside as potential buyers may not be animal lovers so could be put off by the sight of half eaten pet food.

If necessary, box up items you don't use very often and put them in storage. If your cupboards and drawers are overflowing, buyers will assume there is little storage space, which can be off-putting. Keep work surfaces as clear as possible to enhance the



appearance of cleanliness.

Flowers or pot pourri on window sills create a welcoming atmosphere and add a fresh fragrance.

Using these simple but effective ideas will ensure your kitchen looks appealing and entices potential buyers into a prompt decision! No matter how big your home, it's important to maximise the rooms to create a sense of space, especially if you are trying to sell your property.

Here are some tips to make any home feel more spacious:

Mirrors are great for making your home feel

more spacious. In small areas large mirrors can be used to make the room look longer or wider. They are especially useful in hallways where they can be used to manipulate the perception of space by reflecting light and colour.

Having too big a dining table in your dining room can make the area shrink. To maximize space, put up roman blinds rather than curtains, and plan your storage carefully so that clutter is out of sight. This is especially important in the bedroom, because the less clutter you see, the more relaxing the room will be.

Match neutral colours on the walls with similar

flooring in downstairs spaces to give the impression of space flowing from one room to another. Bright shades of carpet or distracting patterns are to be avoided.

If you follow all of these ideas then you are sure to achieve the maximum use of space in your home, and in turn attain the highest possible price for it.

Gardens are too often forgotten in the race to make the most of a property, but their condition can sometimes be the deciding factor on value. It's a common-held belief that the decision on whether or not to buy a property is made within the first few moments of viewing it.

The state of the front garden is therefore a prime consideration for anyone choosing to sell their home. Drive-by desirability is all important as first impressions really do count. Make sure your front garden is neat, tidy and easily maintained. Hanging baskets and flower troughs establish the cared-for look without creating too much work. Any lawn areas should be neatly trimmed, and trees cut back and controlled. A well-presented front door, with pots alongside it, goes a long way towards generating a sense of welcome.

The back of the house is arguably even more important than the front, as this is where the most work is likely to lie. Today's busy lifestyle means the majority of people don't have much time to spend on gardening, so creating some low maintenance areas is invaluable. Decking, paving and woodchips can be used to differentiate areas of the garden and simplify them. Any trees and hedges should be kept under control and fences maintained.



They're sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

- Professional accredited local agent service
- Free valuation
- Local area knowledge
- Adverts in local newspapers, online and office window display
- Registered house hunters
- Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Character cottage thought to date back to the 1700s



A DELIGHTFUL cottage of immense character and charm thought to date back to the 1700s, 47 Mill Lane, Tettenhall, lies at the end of a private drive close to amenities locally at Tettenhall Wood, Compton village and the village of Tettenhall.

With off-road parking for two cars, front lawn and a courtyard it has a porch with impressive Cathedral-style door.

There is a lounge with ceiling timbers, an inglenook fireplace and French doors to the rear, a dining room, a kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

It is up for offers around £225,000. For further information contact Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 or visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk



Two-bed semi perfect for first time buyer

THIS well presented semi-detached house in Tynning Close, Pendeford, is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £114,950.

An ideal first time purchase, its accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner with wood-effect units and contrasting worktops, two bedrooms (one with mirror fronted wardrobes) and a bathroom.

Further benefits include central heating and double glazing.

The property has a driveway to the front flanked by a small amount of lawn and an enclosed rear garden which has been landscaped.

For further information contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk



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A neatly-presented detached home has been re-decorated

THIS neatly presented three-bedroomed detached property on the popular Kingfisher Estate in Welland Grove, Willenhall, is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £145,995.

Recently re-decorated and with double glazing and gas central heating, its living accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there are gardens to both the front and rear, driveway parking and a detached garage.

The property is situated for easy access to a wide range of local amenities, excellent transport links and popular local schools.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 or visit www.prestige-estatesuk.com





Double-fronted detached bungalow

THIS four-bedroomed double fronted detached bungalow in Broad Lane, Bloxwich has spacious accommodation and is conveniently positioned for Bloxwich Railway Station.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it is for sale through Skitts at £220,000.

It has a porch, reception hall with archway to an inner hallway, a front lounge with a feature fireplace and a bow window, a breakfast kitchen with built-in electric oven, four-ring electric hob and extractor fan, utility, four bedrooms (two with French doors to the garden), a bathroom and a rear garden, driveway and detached garage. Contact Skitts on 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net



Property extended and modernised



Spacious detached home in a sought after location

A DECEPTIVELY spacious detached home in a sought after location in Four Crosses Road, Shelfield, Walsall with a refitted kitchen and bathroom, also comes with a garage and parking for several cars.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £225,000.

It has a front driveway and lawned garden, an entrance hall with a door off to a shower room/guest WC, a spacious lounge with a feature fireplace and bay window, an archway to a dining area, a delightful breakfast kitchen, a master bedroom with wardrobes, three further bedrooms, a bathroom and a beautifully presented and private rear garden with a patio area. Contact Goodchilds on 01543 226655 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



THIS attractive detached four-bedroomed property in Springvale Avenue, Walsall has been extended and modernised over recent years.

Within a short distance of local amenities and Walsall Town Centre, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £425,000.

Still offering tremendous potential and with double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, reception hall, guest WC, living room, extended dining and sitting room with feature fireplace, conservatory, large breakfast kitchen with appliances and modern wood-effect units, utility, four bedrooms and two modern bathrooms.

There is also an enclosed and rear garden, ample amount of off-road parking to the front and a double garage with electrically operated doors.

For further information contact Edwards Moore on 01922 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



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Walsall Road, Walsall Wood

- Superbly Designed Detached Bungalow
- Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
- Three Bedrooms all having En-Suites
- Grand Entrance Hallway
- Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sun Room with Log Burner
- Conservatory
- Several Outbuildings
- Viewing Essential

Offers in the Region Of £450,000



Sneyd Lane, Essington

- Ample Parking to the Fore
- Welcoming Entrance Hallway
- 38ft Living Area
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Utility Room
- Potential to convert space to a Granny Annex

Offers in the Region Of £389,000



Curlew Drive, Brownhills

- No Upward Chain
- Impressive David Wilson Home
- Sought After Development
- Bespoke Fitted Kitchen
- Superb Conservatory
- Detached Double Garage

£379,950



Blithfield Road, Brownhills

- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms, Two with En-Suite
- Fitted Oak Kitchen with Granite Worktops
- Rosewood Double Glazing
- Underfloor Heating in Kitchen & Utility
- Unvented Pressurised Heating System
- Three Bathrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- No Upward Chain

£325,000



Lincoln Road, Walsall

- Much Extended & Improved Property
- Two Storey Rear Extension
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Near to Walsall Arboretum
- Close to Several Reputable Schools
- Viewing Essential

Offers in Excess Of £200,000



Ashtree Road, Pelsall

- Three Storey Three Bedroom Period Property
- Sympathetically Refurbished
- Superb Kitchen/Conservatory
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Many Original Features
- Detached Garage
- Sought After Pelsall Village Location

Offers in Excess Of £190,000



Peolsford Road, Pelsall

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Extended
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Utility
- Family Bathroom
- D. Glazing & G.C. Heating

Offers in the Region Of £160,000



Watling Street, Brownhills

- No Upward Chain
- Superb Extended Kitchen
- Lounge with Log Burner
- Second Reception Room
- Useful Loft Space
- Some Work Required

Offers in the Region Of £159,950



Watling Street, Brownhills

- No Upward Chain
- Period Property
- Scope for Further Development
- Spacious Rooms
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Excellent Transport Links
- Viewing Essential

£130,000



Hunter Crescent, Walsall

- Superbly Extended Semi-Detached
- Pleasant Lounge
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential

Offers in the Region Of £125,000



Yorkshire Grove, Walsall

- Immaculately Presented
- Modern Semi Detached
- Sought After Jubilee Gardens Development
- Guest Cloakroom
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room

Offers in Excess Of £125,000



Waters Keep, Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear French Doors
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Useful Storage Space
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty

£119,995



Abbots Close, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Popular Cul-de-Sac Location
- Close to Aldridge & Walsall Town Centres
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£115,000



Springfields, Rushall

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Ideal First Purchase
- Kitchen/Diner
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Several Reputable Schools Nearby
- Viewing Essential

£114,950



Coalpool Lane, Walsall

- Well Maintained Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Shower Room
- Double Glazing
- Kitchen/Diner

Offers in the Region Of £110,000



Pooler Lane, Willenhall

- Ideal Starter Home
- Off Road Parking
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Refitted Bathroom
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location

Offers in Excess Of £110,000

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Redmires Close, Rushall

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EXECUTIVE DETACHED FORMER SHOW HOME
- IMMACULATE CONDITION
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/DINER

Offers in the Region Of £289,950

NEW

Nutmeg Grove, Chuckyry

- Superbly Extended Detached Home
- Impressive Extended Kitchen
- Secure Parking to the Rear
- Garage & Off Road Parking to the Front
- Five Generous Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom

Offers in the Region Of £269,950

Castle Road, Walsall Wood

- Under Floor Heating to Ground Floor
- Aluminium Bi-Fold Doors to Rear
- Composite Front Door
- 'A' Rated uPVC Windows
- Oak Internal Doors
- Landscaped Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway
- Three Bathrooms

£259,950

NEW

Lichfield, Brownhills

- Extended Modern Semi-Detached
- Ground Floor Double Bedroom
- Garage/Storage Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- Contemporary Lounge
- Conservatory
- Private Rear Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment Area

£150,000

New Street, Shelfield

- Three Bedroom Detached House
- Two Bedroom Self Contained Annexe
- Detached Double Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment Area
- Sought After Location

Offers in the Region Of £270,000

Daw End Lane, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Potential to Convert Garage to an Annexe
- Driveway for Several Vehicles
- Through Lounge
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Aldridge Secondary School & Queen

£240,000

Tannery Court, Walsall

- Brand New Three Storey Property
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty
- Garage
- New Development in the Heart Of Walsall
- Show Home Available to View

Offers in the Region Of £210,000

Victoria Terrace, Walsall Town

- Victorian Grade II Listed Building
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- Stunning Views over Arboretum Lake
- Front Gardens
- Parking Area
- Original Period Features Throughout
- Sash Windows
- Double Glazing

Offers in the Region Of £200,000

REDUCED

Bloxwich Road, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Four Bedrooms (En-Suite to Master)
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- Car Port & Side Access to Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ideal Family Home or Buy-to-Let Investment

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Waters Keep, Walsall, Bloxwich

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

£143,995

NEW

Park Road, Walsall

- Contemporary Apartment Block Built in 2008
- Currently Achieving £6300 Annual Rent
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Second Floor Apartment

£115,000

NEW

Drake Road, Walsall

- No Chain
- Currently Tenanted to a long term tenant (£500 PCM)
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Three Generous Bedrooms

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

Dunnerdale Road, Clayhanger

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Fitted Kitchen & Dining Area
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning Permission Previously Granted

Offers in the Region Of £165,000

Waters Keep, Walsall, Bloxwich

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

£136,995

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Penderel Street, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Refitted Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Modern style interior
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Viewing Essential
- Good Transport Links

£104,950

Yorkshire Grove, Walsall

- Immaculately Presented
- Modern Semi Detached
- Sought After Jubilee Gardens Development
- Guest Cloakroom
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Mulberry Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Modern Town House
- No Upward Chain
- Fitted Modern Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential
- Good Transport Links

Offers in the Region Of £100,000



Tasker Street, Bloxwich

- Exclusive Development
- Available March 2016
- Available Off Plan
- Close Proximity to Town Centre
- Allocated Parking
- Viewing Essential

£110,000

Trent Place, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Gated Block Paved Driveway
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Ideal Buy-To-Let Investment
- Great Starter Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Plant Way, Brownhills

- No Upward Chain
- Ideal for a First Time Buyer
- Suitable Buy-to-Let (7% Gross Yield)
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Corner Plot
- Delightful & Spacious Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment Area
- No Chain
- Sought After Location

Offers in the Region Of £99,950

Wilkes Avenue, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Porch
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Generous Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- Scope for Improvement
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location
- Great School Catchment Area

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Shannon Drive, Walsall

- Well Presented Starter Home
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Off Road Parking to the Fore
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£95,000



Rough Road, Walsall

- Show Home Style Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower

£97,500

Millfield Avenue, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Ideal Buy-to-Let Investment
- Popular Lower Farm Area
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Ground Floor WC
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

Offers in the Region Of £85,000

Boundary Road, Sutton Coldfield

- No Upward Chain
- Deceptively Spacious Flat
- Sought After Location
- Ideal Buy-To-Let
- In Need of Some Modernisation
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment Area
- Good Transport Link
- Hundred Acre Estate
- Close To Sutton Park

Offers in the Region Of £90,000

Green Lane, Bloxwich

- Victorian Style Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Ideal Buy-to-Let
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment Area
- Good Transport Links

Offers in the Region Of £85,000

Revival Street, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Purchase
- Refitted Kitchen
- Wet Room
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Delightful Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of £85,000

Basalt Close, Walsall

- Modern Town House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Easy Access to the M6 Motorway

Offers in the Region Of £95,000

West Street, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Region Of £80,000

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L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



WILLENHALL



£84,995

SLATER ST, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Town House, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., Sunroom, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking. BTL Investment Let At £500 PCM.

WOLVERHAMPTON



£85,000

POND GROVE, PARKFIELDS

Two Bed End Town House Having Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Refitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road Parking, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L

NEW INVENTION



£85,000

SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Second Floor Apartment Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, En Suite, UPVC D/G & Electric Heating, Allocated Parking. Great BTL Or FTB.

LANE HEAD



£87,500

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed End Terrace Having Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner And Refitted Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From G/C/H, UPVC D/G, Rear Garden And Parking. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

NEW INVENTION



£87,995

SQUIRES GROVE, W-HALL

Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge With Juliette Balcony, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazed & E/Heating.

SHORT HEATH



£95,000

COLTHAM ROAD, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Town House Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen And Modern Shower Room. The Property Benefits From UPVC D/G, G/C/H And Garden.

NEW INVENTION



£96,000

SQUIRES GROVE, W-HALL

Show Home Condition, Two Bed Second Floor Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom And En-suite Shower Room, UPVC D/G And Electric Heated, Allocated Parking.

BENTLEY



OIEO £100,000

EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL

Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

SHORT HEATH



£105,000

PIMBURY ROAD, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Family Shower Room, Useful Outbuildings, G/C/H And Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. In Need Of Updating, Great Potential.

DARLASTON



£109,995

PINFOLD STREET EXT, DARLASTON

Two Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C And Modern Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/G And G/C/H, Generous Rear Garden.

SHORT HEATH



£110,000

CLIFF CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed End Town House Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C And Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/G, Majority G/C/H And Enclosed Rear Garden.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



£120,000

THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL

Two, One Bedroom Flats Comprises Of Front Entrance Door, Double Bathroom, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Shower. Both Flats Also Benefits From UPVC D/G And G/C/H Throughout.

BRACKENDALE ESTATE



£124,995

STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Town House Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory And Ground Floor WC, Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Garage To The Rear.

QUEENS LEA



£124,995

SHEPHERDS DR, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway & Private Rear Garden.

DARLASTON



£129,995

MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON

Well Presented Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, G/C/H And D/G.

ESSINGTON



£144,995

THE GABLES, W-HAMPTON

Two Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Garage. Sought After Location.

KINGFISHER ESTATE



£145,995

WELLAND GROVE, W-HALL

Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

FURZEBANK



£160,000

PINENEEDLE CROFT, W-HALL

Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen And Shower Room, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway And Private Rear Garden.

ESSINGTON



£189,995

ASHMORE LODGE, W-TON

CHOICE OF TWO NEW BUNGALOWS Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/G & G/C/H, Private Gated Development.

WILLENHALL



£189,995

SOMERFORD PLACE, W-HALL

Spacious Three/ Four Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Shower Room, Cellar, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking.

SHORT HEATH



£190,000

EZEKIEL LANE, WILLENHALL

Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow Comprises Of Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, D/Room, Family Bathroom, Two Ground Floor Bedroom, D/G & G/C/H. Potential Building Plot STTP.

COPPICE FARM



£244,995

NIGHTINGALE CRES, W-HALL

Four Bed Detached Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Family Room, Ground Floor W.C And Sun Room, Master Having An En-Suite And Family Bathroom.

SHORT HEATH



£260,000

BLOXWICH RD NTH, W-HALL

Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.

ESSINGTON



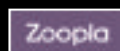
£389,000

SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON

Substantial Three Bed Detached Bungalow Having Imposing Entrance Hall, 38ft Through Lounge, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility, Study/Playroom, Two Bathrooms, D/G, C/H, Garage, Generous Plot.

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SKITTS

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NEXT AUCTION

WEDNESDAY 27TH

JANUARY 2016

AT

HAYWARD SUITE, MOLINEUX
STADIUM, WATERLOO ROAD
WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 4QR
6.30PM REGISTRATION
7.30PM START

AUCTION ROOM



WALSALL, CALDMORE BRACE STREET

- Larger type Victorian terraced property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms



- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing

STARTING BID £80,000

AUCTION ROOM



BLOXWICH, WALSALL GRENFELL ROAD

- Two bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing



- Generous rear garden
- No onward chain

STARTING BID £75,000

AUCTION ROOM



BLOXWICH, WALSALL HEATHER ROAD

- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing



- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous rear garden

STARTING BID £69,500

AUCTION ROOM



BLOXWICH, WALSALL SNEYD LANE

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating



- Upstairs bathroom
- Two reception rooms

STARTING BID £80,000

ON LINE



WOLVERHAMPTON, OXLEY SOUTH STREET

- AUCTION PROPERTY
- ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- LOUNGE & DINING AREA
- FITTED KITCHEN



- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- PARKING TO SIDE

Guide Price £39,000

ON LINE



WEDNESFIELD BROAD LANE SOUTH

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE WITH FIREPLACE
- DINING ROOM WITH FIREPLACE
- KITCHEN



- DOWNSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- LARGE GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY PARKING

Guide price £90,000

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ON LINE



WOLVERHAMPTON BUSHBURY HALL FARM

- NINE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- FIVE RECEPTION ROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS & TWO EN-SUITES
- CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT



- VARIETY OF OUTBUILDINGS INCLUDING WORKSHOP
- SWIMMING POOL AREA
- TWO CELLARS

Guide price £450,000

ON LINE



BUSHBURY HAWKSFORD CRESCENT

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedroom semi detached property
- Lounge & Dining room
- Fitted kitchen



- Family bathroom
- Majority double glazing
- Central heating
- Enclosed rear garden

Guide Price £60,000

ON LINE



WOLVERHAMPTON, OXLEY RIBBESFORD AVENUE

- AUCTION PROPERTY
- Traditional detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Three generous bedrooms



- Family bathroom
- Large garden to rear elevation
- Driveway parking

Guide price £265,000

ON LINE



BILSTON GREEN LANES

- Auction property
- In need of substantial repair



- Outline planning for demolition and redevelopment

Starting price £185,000

LOT 1



WALSALL MAPLE DRIVE

- Three bedroom semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Viewing via agent

Guide Price £105,000

LOT 2



BLOXWICH, WALSALL COALWAY ROAD

- Three bedroom town house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens front and rear

GUIDE PRICE £78,000

LOT 3



NOTTINGHAM NEW ROAD REEDSWOOD

- Semi detached property
- Popular development convenient for road links
- Gas fired radiator central heating
- UPVC double glazing

STARTING BID £90,000

LOT 4



BUSHBURY LANE WOLVERHAMPTON

- Three bedroom mid-terrace property EPC TBC
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Double glazing & CH
- Enclosed rear garden
- Driveway parking

STARTING BID £50,000

LOT 5



CENTRAL DRIVE BLOXWICH

- Three bedrooms Semi Detached
- Gas central heating Two reception rooms
- Upstairs shower room. Generous rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

STARTING BID £60,000

LOT 6



CANNOCK ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON

- Three bedroom semi-detached property
- Lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen
- Modern shower room. Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden and driveway & Garage

STARTING BID £80,000

LOT 7



COLTHAM ROAD WILLENHALL

- Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Part Gas Central Heating System
- Long Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain

STARTING BID £75000

LOT 8



KING CHARLES AV BENTLEY

- Extended Semi-detached On Corner Plot
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway

STARTING BID £60,000

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A conditional auction is similar to a normal house purchase.

1. On acceptance of an offer or the fall of the hammer the purchaser will pay a non refundable reservation fee to secure the property (You can buy before the auction night).

A non refundable deposit of 3.5% subject to a minimum of £6000 must be paid by the buyer immediately following the conclusion of the auction or acceptance of the offer

2. The purchaser is given 28 days to exchange contracts and a further 28 days to complete on the purchase.

3. This is not to be confused with a traditional auction where on the fall of the hammer you pay 10% deposit and exchange contracts straight way.

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Viewings Highly Recommended!
OFFERS AROUND: £480,000

Delamere Road
Willenhall



Three bedroom extended family home in a secluded cul-de-sac location. Porch, Veranda, Entrance Hallway, Lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from pleasant rear garden, front garden with parking, and also further off road parking and a single garage. Viewings Highly Recommended. NO CHAIN!
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950

Highfield Road
Tipton



Select small development of 3 detached new build bungalows - 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom - double glazing and central heating, garden and driveway, call 01902 633323 to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £135,000

Williams Close
Willenhall



Well presented Semi Detached residence situated in a popular cul de sac location in Short Heath. Entrance Hallway, L-Shaped Lounge, Kitchen with modern boiler, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage EPC - D
OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Ravenscroft Road
Willenhall



This well maintained home benefits from UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and comprises of Reception Hall, Through Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Gardens and Off Road Parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £127,500

Warstones Road
Wolverhampton



2 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain in the popular location of Penn and close to local amenities, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, central heating and double glazing, family bathroom, driveway and garage, rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Mount Pleasant
Bilston



This traditional mid terraced property with the benefit of upvc double glazing & gas central heating throughout, briefly comprises, two separate living area's, cellar, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and rear garden.
OFFERS IN EXCESS: £85,000

Broad Street
Bilston



A Fantastic 3 bed extended detached house with gas central heating & double glazing. The property is within walking distance of Bilston town, the metro and main bus routes. The property briefly comprises, porch, hallway, lounge, lounge / dining room, kitchen, utility room, guest cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £159,950

Ashley Street
Bilston



A Two bedroom mid terraced house situated just off Mount Pleasant benefits from being located a short walk away from the Bilston Town centre briefly comprises, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £80,000

Darlaston Lane
Bilston



This recently refurbished semi detached property which offers no upward chain has been completed to a good standard with a full rewire and is gas central heated throughout briefly comprises, porch, hallway, lounge, open plan kitchen / dining area, downstairs w.c., landing, three bedrooms, bathroom and enclosed rear garden.
OFFERS IN EXCESS: £155,000

Webb Street
Bilston



Refurbished Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain, close to all local amenities and transports link, UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Guest WC, Through Lounge, Re Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Re Fitted Shower Room, Front Driveway, Garage & Enclosed Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £90,000

Croxley Gardens
Willenhall



Well Presented Two Bedroom Semi Detached Modern Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Modern Bathroom, Central Heating and Double Glazing, Driveway for off Road Parking, Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Call Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Pickwick Place
Bilston



A well presented 2 bedroom first floor flat. The property, which benefits UPVC double glazing, is located in a quiet cul-de-sac location. The property property briefly comprises: reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and enclosed rear garden. Communal parking is available with the dwelling.
OFFERS AROUND: £70,000

Merstone Close
Bilston



A One bedroom ground floor flat with a potential rental yield of 8.5% briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom. No upward chain.
OFFERS AROUND: £60,000

Hartland Avenue
Bilston



Well Presented Modern End of Terrace close to all local amenities and transport links. Benefiting from UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating and briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front Driveway providing off road parking for two cars and Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £100,000

Willis Pearson Avenue
Bilston



A well presented three bedroom semi detached home with gas central heating and double glazing. The property briefly comprises, hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, side veranda, downstairs shower room, three bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

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Lichfield Road
Willenhall



REDUCED Lovely traditional 3 bedroom semi detached home, lounge, dining room, kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, good size rear garden, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Moathouse Lane East
Wolverhampton



Deceptively Spacious Two Bedroom Home. Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Large Dining Room. Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front Driveway And Private Rear Garden. NO CHAIN EPC - E
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Cresswell Crescent
Bloxwich



FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT IN OVER 55's POPULAR DEVELOPMENT IN BLOXWICH, COMPRISING OF LOUNGE, OPEN PLAN KITCHEN, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS AND WET ROOM. OFFERED ON A 75% SHARED OWNERSHIP BASIS. NO CHAIN!
OFFERS AROUND £75,000

Griffiths Drive
Wolverhampton



Three Bedroom Maisonette In Popular Residential Location Of Ashmore Park. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, The Property Comprises Of: Entrance Hall, Large Kitchen Diner, Lounge, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Separate W.C.
OFFERS AROUND: £85,000



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CGI of Keinton exterior

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LOT 1

Manor Road Walsall

23rd Jan 10:30am, 1st Feb 10:30am, 8th Feb 10:30am



This two bedroom end terraced property is situated in a popular residential area a short walk from Walsall Manor Hospital. The property is in need of modernisation and therefore offers great potential for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front reception room, Understair cupboard, Rear Reception Room, Kitchen, Bathroom First Floor Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom Two with window overlooking the garden Outside At the front of the property there is a small paved area as well as a small patch of grass and to the rear there is an overgrown garden.

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS

LOT 2

Bentley Lane Walsall

23rd Jan 10am, 1st Feb 10am,



This two bedroom end terraced property is in need of some modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area which makes it an ideal purchase for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Lounge with window to front, Reception Room, Kitchen with back door providing access to garden. First Floor Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom Two with window to rear and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS

LOT 3

Pelsall Lane Rushall

23rd January 9:30am, 2nd February 9:30am



This gas centrally heated and double glazed three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area and would make an ideal purchase for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Entrance Lobby leads to Lounge with double glazed window to front and wooden fire with wall mounted gas fire. Dining Room with wall mounted gas fire. Kitchen with stainless steel sink and windows to side and rear elevations. First Floor Bedroom One with double glazed window to front, Bedroom Two with double glazed window to rear, Bedroom Three with double glazed window side, Bathroom with double glazed window to side, bath with pedestal hand basin and flush fit W.C. Outside Fore garden with concrete stamped paved driveway as well as a gravel drive for off road parking. Enclosed rear garden with concrete path and lawn area. Garage.

●Guide Price £78,000 PLUS

LOT 4

Victor Street Pelsall

Saturday 23rd Jan 10am, Tuesday 2nd February 10am



This two bedroom end terraced property which is in need of some modernisation would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. The property is situated in a popular residential area a short distance from Pelsall village centre. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to Front reception room with window to front, Rear reception room with window overlooking the rear garden, Modernised Kitchen with stainless steel sink as well as a door providing access to the garden. First Floor Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom two with window overlooking the rear garden and Bathroom Outside To the side of the property there is a small driveway giving access to a garage. At the rear of the property there is a garden.

●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

LOT 5

Site of Substation adjacent 156 City Road Oldbury

The site is available to view from the road



A Freehold building plot with Planning Permission (subject to conditions) for the erection of two 3 bedroom semi detached houses (Application No. DC/14/57212 Sandwell MBC). Situated in a residential area convenient for all amenities.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £40,000

LOT 6

Lichfield Street Walsall

Strictly by appointment through auctioneers




This double fronted commercial property with three floors of office space is situated within a short walk of Walsall town centre. The property has been well maintained and offers an ideal investment opportunity with a regular substantial income from a number of sources. There is further potential income from other offices which are at present vacant. Currently the following are let under licence Office Three let to Bridgers Central UK Limited @ £3000.00 per annum for 104 weeks from 2nd February 2015 and Broadway Mortgage Consultants Limited on the same terms. Office Five let on licence to Mortgage Force Limited @ £19,200.00 per annum for 104 weeks from 2nd February 2015. We understand at the time of going to print that Office One and Two is currently under offer with an expected income of £8,320.00 per annum and is to be agreed on a one year licence.

●Guide Price £180,000 PLUS

LOT 7

Bell Green Road Coventry

26th January 11:30am, Thu 4 Feb 11:30am



This three bedroom end terraced property is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area with a primary school and college within walking distance. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Porch leads to Lounge with bay window to front (4m into bay x 3.5m), Reception Room (3.8m x 3.4m), Kitchen (2.8m x 2.1m), Bathroom (2.2m x 1.7m) First Floor Bedroom one with window to front (3.4m x 3.4m), Bedroom two (3.8m x 2.5m), Bedroom three with window overlooking the garden (3.9m x 2.2m). Outside At the front of the property there is a small gated access to the front door and at the rear there is a small garden. Buyers Premium A buyers premium of £900 (inclusive of V.A.T.) will be charged

●Guide Price £73,000 PLUS

LOT 8

Foleshill Road Coventry

26th January 12pm, 4th February 12pm



This three bedroom end terraced property is situated in a popular residential area a short distance from the Arena park shopping centre and the Rich arena. The property is in need of modernisation and with all amenities close at hand it comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to lounge with bay window to front, Reception Room, Kitchen First Floor Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom two, Bathroom, Bedroom three with window overlooking the garden Outside At the front of the property there is a small gated access to the front door and at the rear of the property there is a small paved area near the back door with the remainder of the garden full of grass. Buyers Premium A buyers premium of £900 (inclusive of V.A.T.) will be charged

●Guide Price £78,000 PLUS

LOT 11

John Riley Drive Willenhall,

Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



This semi detached property situated at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac in a popular and sought after location. Set on a larger than average plot, the property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement and lends itself to extensions subject to planning permission and would therefore make an ideal purchase for a builder looking for a project. Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.79m x 3.3m, Dining Room 4.7m x 3.1m max, Kitchen 3.27m x 2.27m. First Floor Bedroom One (front) 3.8m x 3.2m, Bedroom Two (rear) 3.26m x 3.2m, Bedroom Three (front) 2.28m x 2.6m, Bathroom, Separate W.C. Outside Garage 7m x 2.3m, foregarden with tarmacadam driveway affording good off street parking, rear garden. Tenure Leasehold 99 years from 25/3/71

●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

LOT 12

Liskeard Road Walsall

Sat 23rd 11am, Mon 1st Feb 11am, Mon 8th Feb 11am



This three bedroom Semi Detached property is in need of total modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area with an assortment of schools and shops in the local area. This property is ideally suited towards investors or potential home owners; with all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Porch leads to entrance hall giving access to Lounge with glass sliding doors opening out onto the garden and Kitchen with window overlooking the driveway. First Floor Landing gives access to Bedroom with window overlooking the garden, Bedroom, Bedroom with window to front Outside At the front of the property there is a shared driveway giving access to the garage at the rear as well as a patch of grass. At the rear of the property

●Guide Price £140,000 PLUS

If you are interested in selling at auction then give us a call on 0121 289 3838 for a free valuation

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WILLENHALL YALE ROAD

- Superb Detached On Very Popular Estate
- Hall With Guests Wc
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen



- 5 Bedrooms, 3 En-suites
- Family Bathroom, Driveway
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Pleasant Gardens, No Upward Chain

£265,000



WILLENHALL MERE CLOSE

- Spacious Extended Semi Detached
- Sought After Road With Pleasant Open Outlook
- Guests Wc, Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen



- 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
- Downstairs Wc, Garage, Driveway
- Delightful Gardens
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, No Chain

OFFERS OVER £160,000



BRIARSLIEGH LEYBURN CLOSE

- Superb Greatly Improved Modern Style Semi
- Highly Sought After Cul De Sac
- Hall, Lounge
- Impressive Newly Fitted Kitchen



- Conservatory, Utility, 3 Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom, Garage, Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing

£154,950



BENTLEY CHURCHILL ROAD

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Located On A Popular Road
- Hall, Lounge, Spacious Dining Room
- Re - Fitted Kitchen



- 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway And Rear Gardens

£140,000



WILLENHALL LINCOLN AVENUE

- Beautifully Presented Extended Traditional
- Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen, Three Bedrooms



- Refitted Shower Room, Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Block Paved Driveway

£130,000



BENTLEY EDINBURGH AVENUE

- Superb Impressively Appointed And
- Beautifully Presented Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge
- Spacious Re-fitted Kitchen



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens

£110,000



WILLENHALL ASTON ROAD

- Semi Detached Requiring Modernisation
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Majority Double Glazing



- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway, Garage
- Front And Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£109,950



WILLENHALL NEWLANDS CLOSE

- First Floor Maisonette
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- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
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- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom



- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System
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- Two Bedrooms, Impressive Conservatory



- Superb Re-fitted Shower Room
- Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Allocated Parking Space

£110,000



BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Popular Road
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Front And Rear Gardens, Garage
- No Upward Chain

£100,000



WILLENHALL FISHER STREET

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- Communal Gardens & Parking, No Chain

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£129,000

Skoda's great car range

Citigo

The Citigo is Skoda's take on the most modern citycar design in the market. With the Czech brand on the bonnet, it makes value sense too.

It's an impressive compact city car which borrows the technological expertise offered by Skoda's parent company, Volkswagen. It then blends it with the value we expect from this rapidly growing Czech brand.

Those in search of a beautifully conceived, affordable and impressively space and fuel-efficient urban runabout should seriously consider it.

Go for the slightly pokier 75PS variant and Skoda includes its efficiency package (with start/stop and everything else) as standard with this engine, so the returns achieved – 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and 98g/km – are substantially better than most rivals.

Whether you opt for your Citigo with 60 or 75PS, the benefits of the efficiency package are important given that they take this car below the 100g/km barrier, making it completely free from congestion charges and delivering all kinds of tax benefits.

Fabia Compact Hatchback and Estate

Skoda ups the ante with its third-generation Fabia, introducing sharper, more assertive styling and clever technology. With more space inside, increased scope for personalisation and better efficiency from its engines, the Fabia has the basics spot on.

The Fabia has done very well for Skoda. Around 3.5 million cars have sold to date, split between 1.8 million first-generation Fabias and

around 1.7 million second-generation cars. That's quite some success story. The Fabia blends a mix of abilities and can probably be described as the car that offers the most quality for your pound in its sector.

Skoda Octavia

The talented new Skoda Octavia is bigger and better value than most of its rivals, a medium-sized hatch for the price of a compact-sized one.

If you're after more performance, then you'll appreciate one of the sporty vRS models. Horses for courses you see.

And if those courses are likely to be on the rough and muddy side, then you'll be interested in the four-wheel drive system also developed for this car, primarily for a Scout estate model with additional body cladding and a raised ride height.

Skoda Superb

The aptly-named, prestigious new Skoda Superb looks better than ever, is even more polished inside and backs that up with ever better efficiency measures.

Increasingly, the big hatchback or estate car is filling a bit of a niche. There's little doubt that at this price point it's hard to buy better than the Skoda Superb if you're really not after a 4x4 or a people carrier.

It rides and handles better than any comparatively-priced SUV or MPV we can think of, it's elegantly understated and it makes sense on the balance sheet, too.

Rapid

Skoda understands its customers. Ease of ownership, value pricing and solid build are all



priorities. All are satisfied by the Golf competing Rapid.

That the brand can deliver more sophistication than this is not in doubt – the larger Octavia demonstrates that. But the point here is that a significant number of customers just don't need it and the new Rapid is tailor made for them.

In addition Skoda offers the Rapid Spaceback which features a longer wheelbase and sportier look.

Yeti

Then there's the incredible, multi-award winning Yeti, a very spacious but externally compact Yeti, which strikes the perfect balance between on road performance, family orientated practicality and rugged 4x4 styling. It's available with a choice of two or four-wheel drive and diesel and petrol engines.

What makes Skoda's Yeti so appealing? It's spacious, safe, drives well, has a cool but

understated image and extremely low running costs. The latest car adds a little equipment, tidies the interior and tweaks the styling but otherwise sticks to a tried and tested recipe. In truth, not a lot needed changing. The Yeti remains a class act.

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*Up to £2000 Scrappage Allowance towards a new car is offered on condition that the traded-in car must have been registered in your name as the owner for at least 90 days and the registration document must be in your name and address. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered from 1 January 2016 and registered by 31 March 2016 and is subject to terms and conditions. *Excludes VIVA, ADAM, JAM, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R. Ts&Cs apply. Offer available at participating Retailers only on limited stock. UK supplied vehicles only. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

Kia Optima's evolution

By James Parker

The fourth-generation Optima has a modern, new exterior, a bold interior design with more space for occupants, new technologies and a wide choice of efficient powertrains.

The new model offers greater refinement and improved ride and handling over the outgoing model, while retaining the sporty image that has helped Optima become one of Kia's best-selling models worldwide.

The Kia Optima plays an important role in the Kia Motors Europe product line-up, introducing the brand to an increasing number of new customers. Since the third-generation model launched in 2011, with its distinctive look, high-quality interior and high-tech image, the Optima has offered buyers something fresh and different in the D-segment.

The all-new Optima's evolutionary new look was designed to be functional and sporty, with exterior dimensions that are marginally longer, taller and wider. These changes enable a roomier and more comfortable cabin, with more head-, shoulder- and rear-seat leg-room and greater cargo capacity.

This model is the most aerodynamic Optima to date, with drag reduced from 0.3 to 0.29 Cd.

The all-new Kia Optima will be available in Europe in a choice of nine colours, with

alloy wheels ranging from 16-in to 18in diameter.

The material quality of the all-new Optima's cabin is significantly improved over the outgoing model, with a far higher proportion of soft-touch materials, as well as cloth and leather trim in natural tones.

Tasteful metallic accents throughout the cabin add a higher quality ambience to the interior.

The larger interior and exterior dimensions ensure that the all-new model is the most practical, spacious and comfortable. Cargo space has grown from 505 to 510 litres (VDA), with the under-floor storage area and a wider boot opening adding greater practicality.

High-strength

It features a uniquely engineered body which combines more high-strength materials than ever before, resulting in even higher standards of crash safety. While passive safety is improved, the new model is also equipped with a series of high-tech active and autonomous safety features, and Kia's engineers have targeted a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating throughout the Optima's development programme.

Kia's vehicle stability management is fitted as standard, ensuring stability under braking and cornering by controlling the car's electronic stability control and electric motor-driven power steering if it detects a loss of traction.

The Optima is available with a wide range of optional active hazard-avoidance technologies, depending on market.



The new model offers greater refinement and improved ride and handling

Improving ride and handling was a top priority for Kia's dynamic development teams, with a focus on delivering the ride comfort and stability customers expect from a D-segment sedan, while achieving the level of agility promised by the car's sportier appearance.

The all-new Optima debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies to improve usability, comfort and convenience.

The touchscreen infotainment system is paired with a six-speaker audio system as standard.

A powerful Harman Kardon premium sound system, featuring 10 speakers, an external amplifier and Clari-Fi MP3 restoration technology, is also available as an option.

The all-new Kia Optima will offer the company's unique seven-year, 150,000km warranty as standard.

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Suzuki's Celerio an honest car

By John Griffiths

You may have noticed that new car prices are on a rapid upward spiral, so that even some of the 'value' brands now cost the sort of money which would have bought you a premium saloon a few years ago.

But to be fair, even the most cynical among us can't put automotive inflation down to simple profiteering. There is, for example, mounting pressure on car makers to make massive investments in research and development in the fields of safety, fuel economy and reducing exhaust emissions.

Jaguar Land Rover's £1 billion investment in a new plant to produce the super efficient Ingenium diesel engine on the outskirts of Wolverhampton is one example. Then, of course, there are the new hybrid and fuel cell technologies.

Buyers are also demanding more: some cars now have so many electronic gadgets we older folk need a further education course to use them properly. But where does that leave those of us who can't afford a new car, with the benefits of a fuel efficient engine and a peace of mind warranty?

Well, there's the Suzuki Celerio. With one of the largest cabins in the 'city car' class, over 60mpg, zero road tax and one of the cheapest new cars you can buy with prices from £7,414. That's the price for the entry level 'S22' test car: a practical hatchback with few frills but all the essentials. There are better equipped Celerios further up the range, and even a more economical engine, but this base model is hard to beat if you want true value for money motoring.

It still comes, for example, with a full safety package including anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution, emergency brake assist, electronic stability control and six airbags.

There's also a decent DAB radio and CD player, tinted glass electric front windows and an effective heater – but no air conditioning and you have to adjust the wing mirrors with little manual levers instead of electric switches.

The three cylinder, one litre engine has an official fuel average of 65.7mpg, a CO2 rating of 99g/km (so no road tax under current regulations) and insurance shouldn't break the bank with a low 7E (out of 50) rating.

It was a brave decision by Suzuki to replace two older models (the Alto and the Splash) with one, the Celerio. There was an initial problem with a brake part, too, but the company recommissioned the part and retro fitted it to those cars which had already gone out to dealers within days.

The result? Well the Celerio has proved to be a big seller for Suzuki, indicating its the right package which convinces test-driving customers.

Footprint

The Celerio has a small 'footprint' but it's also relatively high which means it's been laid out to seat four adults in comfort – even a 6ft 6ins colleague wasn't cramped in the rear. With its tall stance and five doors, access is easy too.

With light, power assisted steering, a higher-than-average seating position and deep windows it's a breeze to park and to handle around town.

The steering is positive, too, which helps makes the Celerio a pleasant car to drive on the open road. With 68bhp it's no ball of fire but keeps up with even motorway traffic without fuss or excessive engine noise. A typical Suzuki motor, it's more of a purr than a growl.

The ride feels a little firm over poor surfaces, but it's sufficiently well damped to ensure comfort and prevent the bumps throwing the steering off track.

The slowest moving part of the test car was the fuel guage: while I didn't manage the official 65.7mpg, over a week of driving the actual figure was close to 60mpg which is the best I remember from a petrol car.

If you want, or can afford, to upgrade to the flagship S23 version, you can also have Suzuki's new 'dualjet' engine. While it's basically the same unit, with the same overall power output, it is slightly quicker and considerably more economical. With a new fuel injection system, variable valve timing and a few other technical modifications, it is one of the most efficient petrol engines ever produced. Official figures credit it with an incredible 78.4mpg and an ultra low 84g/km.

There's also an 'automatic' option – in fact it's not a traditional auto but an automated manual box, where the work of the clutch is done by electronics and servos. You can still use the gear lever for manual changes (or not, as suits you).

Higher grade models are, of course, better equipped, too, with features such as air conditioning starting at S22.

The practical split/fold rear seats are standard, though, with cargo space of 254 litres rising to 726 litres when they're folded flat. That's another area in which the Suzuki goes to the top of the city car class.

Suzuki pride themselves on being the small car experts and certainly the Celerio is something of a master class in packaging.

A small footprint on the road with surprising amounts of room inside, excellent economy and low running costs. It's the sort of honest car which the market (and many car buyers) need.



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More than a Mondeo but still practical

By Matt Joy

Ford has released the first car to wear its up-market Vignale badge, but is it just a more expensive Mondeo or something more substantial?

This is brand new territory for Ford, as it seeks to muscle in on the compact premium sector with the Mondeo Vignale. More than just a trim designation, Vignale models sit at the top of the Mondeo range and have unique exterior and interior elements and are designed to offer superior comfort.

What's more, they are finished in a special area of Ford's Valencia factory, with additional layers of paint and higher quality standards, and if you buy one you can only do so from specially-chosen Ford dealers. You'll get a higher standard of service too, with free collection and pick-up from your dedicated Vignale dealerperson.

On the outside, there's unique alloy wheels, a gloss finish to the grille and pillars, and some extra chrome detailing, plus those unmissable badges. The Mondeo Vignale is also available in just four colours: black, silver, white and 'Nocciola' - brown to you and me.

It's a handsome machine, arguably more so in estate form, and while the Vignale extras do make it feel a little more posh, there's no denying it's still clearly a Mondeo. It's very early days for this sub-brand, and only time will tell if buyers respond to its perceived elevation over the standard car.

It gets better on the inside, however. As the Vignale sits above the Titanium X in the Mondeo range, it is positively groaning with kit. There's a big Sony audio system with satnav and Ford's SYNC2 system, active noise cancelling (more of which later), ambient lighting and you can even have ventilated massage seats.

Practical

There's also leather - tons of the stuff. The seats have their own pattern (designed to echo that of the front grille) plus it's on the dashboard, the doors and even on the centre armrest. It's here you begin to feel that you're getting something for the additional outlay, although obviously it is just as practical as a regular Mondeo.

As you'd expect, the Vignale is standard Mondeo underneath, but that's no bad thing. What has changed is that the suspension has been tweaked to deliver a smoother ride, while there's acoustic side glass as standard and the noise cancelling system to keep the cabin hushed.

With the most-popular 2.0 TDCI unit and the Powershift transmission taking care of gearshifts, piloting the Mondeo Vignale is a genuinely relaxing experience. The ride may be smoother but it still has the Ford sharpness of response you'd expect, while the reduction in noise levels is a welcome improvement.

Most of the German competition go for a sporty feel, whereas the Mondeo Vignale is comfort oriented, which potentially gives it an advantage on the UK's poor roads.

Take a look at the spec sheet and the final price makes sense. The options list is very small indeed, while the standard spec runs to that sophisticated Sony system including satnav, a rear view camera, ambient lighting and a fully-electric driver's seat. A complete leather interior and the special alloy wheels come with it too. It's worth noting, however, that the key German rivals are very close on price, although, if you equalise the specification, a big price gap opens up.

So will the Mondeo Vignale find favour with customers, or sit forlornly in its special corner of the showroom? Well, the fact is that buyers do like high-spec Mondeos; the stats show that the Titanium X simply isn't enough for some. It's also a useful higher step for people climbing the company car ladder, and Ford is clear about most of its sales coming in this way. There's also a hybrid version if you want the petrol electric combination.

This car summed up in a single word: Soothing.

If this car was a jacket, it would be sumptuous and welcoming woollen overcoat.

TESTED

Ford Mondeo Vignale 2.0 TDCI 180PS, £29,345

Engine: 2.0-litre diesel engine producing 178bhp and 295lb.ft of torque

Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 140mph, 0-62mph in 8.3 seconds

Economy: 62.8mpg combined

Emissions: 117g/km of CO2



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LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

MADDIE extremely passionate female seeks reliable man to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married by 50, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box: 420247

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box: 420247

ALEXA 49, slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTm similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lovely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355

JACKIE lonely looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good fun, cosy nights in, holidays etc. WLTm male for mutual companionship Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chap to share coffee and a chat. Text only to Mailbox no: 531004

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTm a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTm a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855

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LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde, seeks similar cheery, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

WAYNE, 40, cheery, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561

SLIM attractive man WLTm caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. Text only mailbox no: 4172082

BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. Text only mailbox no: 4656809

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, seeks a nice female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. Text only mailbox no: 5352046

COLIN 48, kind, caring, loving, seeks kind, caring, loving, cuddly large lady, 40 to 55 for LTR. Text only mailbox no: 5308886

45 year old male WLTm lady friend 35 to 55 who likes to enjoy life. Text only mailbox no: 4215562

MALE, five foot ten, stocky build, hazel eyes, just had heart broken, WLTm 40+ female for rendezvous and romantic nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420643

MALE, 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, enjoys outdoors, mountain biking, walking, countryside, cinema, days out, seeks genuine, loving female, 29-37, for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420645

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713



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MALE, tall, slim, professional, honest, easy going, seeks soulmate 45-60 for happy times and maybe romance. Derby area. Text only to mailbox no: 5358654

JOHN, 68, six foot three, salt and pepper hair, n/s, divorced, own business, WLTm a long-term partner to travel and enjoy the good things in life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420433

HAPPY man 59 looking for a lady to share the good times, I enjoy cinema, eating out, pubs and holidays in hot places. Text only to mailbox no: 4618385

LOVELY and broken male seeks female to show me what love is. Text only to mailbox no: 5345658

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463

HANDSOME guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for friendship and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

ATTRACTIVE male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904

TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, mature female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387

TALL attractive Shrewsbury 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

COLIN 48, seeks cuddly large beautiful woman 45 to 55 for LTR, love, romance, hopefully likes cuddles, kisses, holding hands. Text only to Mailbox no: 5308886

52YRS old guy genuine down to earth looking for Mrs right for nights in and out, walking, cooking, lives life to the full. Text only to Mailbox no: 5331215

MALE looking to meet a nice lady for fun times to spend with, am 42 and would like to meet a lady between 60 and 70. Text only to Mailbox no: 5332896

PHILLIP, 29 years old, 5ft 11ins, stocky build, green eyes, friendly, GSOH, seeks genuine friendly n/s female for friendship, possible relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5335424

PHIL, 58, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551

CARING male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum wannabe. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396708

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RENAULT SCENIC EXP-SION DCI 1.5, 2006, 59,091 miles, silver, bodywork needs attention, MoT to Dec 2016, £1,200 ono. 01902 256546.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2000, 45,253 miles, green, MOT, CD, excellent condition, great first car, £700 ono. 07870 291818.

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9

Local Information

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ANNEX C: NOTICE OF DETERMINATION AS RISING SUN TO WASHBROOK LANE CYCLING AND AS/A452 BROWNHILLS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 105 A (3) OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (AS AMENDED)

The Highways England gives notice that it has been determined that the A5 Rising Sun to Washbrook Lane Cycling and AS/A452 Brownhills proposal which is a relevant project within the meaning of section 105A (1) of the Highways Act 1980 is not subject to environmental impact assessment in accordance with Part VA of the Highways Act 1980 implementing Directive 2011/92/EU as amended.

This is due to the fact that all criteria covered in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges volume 11 have been reviewed to assess the environmental impacts on the scheme. There are not expected to be significant impacts on Local Communities or Road Users (Noise, Air Quality), Nature Conservation (protected species), Landscape and Visual (land use), Archaeology and Heritage (Scheduled Monuments, cultural heritage), Geology and Soils and Waste Management. The long-term impact on all environmental topics is assessed as being neutral.

Further information on the project and about this notice may be obtained from

Marcus Peart, Highways England
The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham B1 1RN
Telephone: 0121 678 8000 Email: marcus.peart@highwaysengland.co.uk

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 141(i)(a) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 7 TO JUNCTION 10A, (SANDWELL AND WALSALL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M6 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Sandwell and Walsall to allow electrical installations to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close:-

1. the northbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 7, to its junction with the entry slip road leading from Hilton Park Motorway Service Area (north of Junction 10a);
2. the slip roads leading:-
 - i) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 7;
 - ii) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9;
 - iii) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;
3. the link road leading from the northbound carriageway of the M5 to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 8.

The work will be carried out overnight between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Wednesday 27 January 2016 and continue for four weeks. The Order will come into force on 24 January 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures.

Traffic on the M6 wishing to join the M5 southbound will be diverted off the M6 at Junction 7 onto the A34, A4041, A4031 and M5, A4148, A460 to M6 northbound traffic will be diverted via the A34, A444, A445, Junction 11.

For further information, please contact Mark Simmonite on 0121 678 8422.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited. Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

IRENE GERTRUDE SHINE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Richmond Hall Nursing Home 81-83 Stannal Road, Aldridge Walsall West Midlands WS9 8JZ, who died on 05/10/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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EDNA OWEN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Richmond Hall Nursing Home 81-83 Stannal Road, Aldridge Walsall WS9 8JZ, who died on 05/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/03/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (West Midlands) (No. 02) Order 2016" authorising the stopping up of an irregular shaped western part width of Fryers Road comprising highway verge at Walsall, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to enable development as permitted by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, reference 13/0725/WA.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR, or nationalcasework@dtf.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTR/AN/WMS247/2004) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 21 January 2016 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

S Zamenzadeh, Casework Manager

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Woodfield pocket a surprise win at Sedgley

SEDGLEY Ex-Service A's Division One title hopes took a hit as they suffered a bruising 4-1 defeat at in-form Woodfield Social A in the West Midlands Snooker League.

Hotshots SC took full advantage to go joint top with Sedgley following a 3-2 home win against Stafford Institute A.

In Division Two, second-placed Forty Four Club A bounced back from a heavy defeat the week before to clinch a deciding frame victory at Smethwick Labour: Bilston BC A nicked a tight match against relegation-threatened Shifnal B with solid wins for Jamie Spence, Ashley Wall and the decider from Rhys Lampitt.

Golden Cue SC D maintained their title challenge in Division Three with a 4-1 win against Wednesfield Cons B, while Windsor Transport B now look certain to lift the Division Four title thanks to a 4-1 win against ECC.

Division Five leaders Amery went six points clear when they defeated Bushbury Grid B 4-1.

Golden Cue G in second lost ground on the leaders Amery when they suffered a surprise defeat away at Triangle SC 3-2 in a deciding frame.

In Division Six, table-topping Bentley Moor continue to dominate after winning 4-1 at Pennfields D.

Forty Four Club B remain on course for an immediate return to division five as they accounted for Essington WMC C 3-2 in a deciding frame.

Callum Downing was in red-hot form as Hotshots SC booked their place in the Challenge Cup quarter-finals, beating Shifnal A 301-280.

Rangers make loan move for Saddlers Levi

YOUNG striker Levi Rowley has joined Stafford Rangers on loan from Walsall.

Rowley, who has yet to make his competitive first-team debut for the club, has linked up with his hometown club for a month.

The 18-year-old, signed his first professional contract in the summer, but has been allowed to continue his education at Marston Road.

Rangers have gone 18 points clear at the top of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South and look destined for promotion.

Rowley said: "The aim is to go out and impress. If I can go and get myself into the team, play well and get among the goals, then the loan will have done its job.

"It'll be good to see how I cope with men's football and how my development goes from here.

"I've got the benefit of still being at Walsall during the week and training but then I can hopefully get some game time with Stafford as well."

Teams crank up pressure on the leaders

JUST two points separate the leading three teams in the Walsall Netball League Division Two.

With leaders Yendys B not in action, West Brom and Parkside A cranked up the pressure with re-sounding victories, 53-24 and 72-26 respectively over Whitmore Purple 53-24 and Dudley Leisure III.

Division Three leaders Parkside B won 38-18 against Grasshoppers II. Re-Union jumped into second, beating WT Wanderers II 42-23.

Division One leaders Libra Lea Sky beat Bran-Nu A 39-21. In Division Four, Birmingham City Silver beat their Blue team 33-14.

West Brom II are up to second in the midweek Division One following a 27-17 defeat of Grasshoppers I. Division Two leaders Libra Lea Aqua beat Harriers 33-14.

Bradshaw's rescue act at Ricoh



Tom Bradshaw scores the Saddlers equaliser

Coventry City 1 Walsall 1
TOM Bradshaw's goal 10 minutes from time brought Walsall a hard-earned point against promotion rivals Coventry at the Ricoh Arena.

The striker produced a wonderful sidefooted finish to ensure the League One clash finished 1-1 after Chris Stokes had given the Sky Blues a first-half lead.

But Walsall will be delighted with their point.

Before kick-off there was a minute's silence in memory of former

Sky Blues chairman Mike McGin-nity.

Coventry started on the front foot and registered the game's first chance when Adam Armstrong collected the ball and danced past George Evans and into the box.

The Sky Blues continued to look the more dangerous with Jim O'Brien playing a dinked ball over the defence that was just too strong for the onrushing Joe Cole.

Moments later though and the home crowd were celebrating as

Coventry took the lead after a foul on Murphy by Evans. Referee Tony Harrington awarded a free-kick wide on the left which Cole took and Stokes headed home.

With 10 minutes remaining, the Saddlers pulled level thanks to Bradshaw's 13th goal of the season.

Despite having barely had a sight of goal all game, the striker met Rico Henry's ball into the box to calmly side-foot into the net from 12-yards while under heavy pressure from the Coventry defenders.

Swimmers in sync with wave of talent

HEAD coach Amy Baker is confident the latest wave of talent is going to help put Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club firmly on the map.

But then talent has never been an issue for the progressive club – just ask Simon Cowell.

Back in 2012, Zoe Cooper flew the flag for Walsall when she reached the final of Britain's Got Talent as part of a synchronised swimming act called Aquabatique.

The TV exposure, coupled with the fact London hosted the Olympics the same year, helped boost the sport's profile and now Baker oversees a membership of around 75.

Cooper is still part of the set up, competing and coaching for the club. Baker said: "Zoe has done all kinds of weird and wonderful things and gets to go all over the world.

"She was in act called Aquabatique on Britain's Got Talent in 2012 just before the Olympics.

Episode

"They got to the final and they had to do their routine outside because they couldn't get the tank into the studio.

"It raised the profile of the sport and we had a lot of inquiries from off the back of that.

"The programme Splash, that Tom Daley was in had synchro swimmers in it every week and Zoe was in pretty much every episode of that as well."

Baker has been associated with the club, founded in 1972, for 23 years, having joined as a nine-year-old. And she is delighted with the progress over the past few years.

"I have been running the club for the last 10 years or so," she said. "We have doubled in size since 2012. As the club gets bigger we need more volunteers, but we have got a good group of people that help run everything. This last 12 months we have really started to see our profile improve."

At the National Championships in December, the club ended up with five teams competing – the most they'd had.

"Our 12 and under finished sixth and the majority of them are 12 and under again this year so we hope to be up among the medals," said Baker. "Robyn Swatman, 11, finished seventh in the 12 and under section and sixth in the solo.

"Fyfer Watkins was eighth in solo event in the in the 13, 14, 15 age group, which was brilliant because she qualified in 12th. Both Fyfer and Robyn were selected for England talent trials



Young team members of Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club

and Robyn was then selected for the England Development squad."

The club is currently having to travel to Darlaston and RAF Cosford for training while their usual base, Walsall Gala Baths, undergoes a refurbishment.

"We cover three counties and now people are having to travel to nearly Shropshire to train," said Baker. "But it's something we have got to put up with to have a better facility." The costs are another issue,

with the club carrying out various events to help raise funds. "Pool hire is expensive and we probably spend a £20,000 a year on that," said Baker.

"Costumes are £500-£600 a set and sometimes more than that if they are handmade. It all adds up, but we raise money ourselves."

The club offers a three-week free trial to beginners. Call 07545 787150 or go www.walsallssc.webeden.co.uk

Aldridge feel Payne of Lee's big break

LEE Payne was main man as reigning Aldridge Snooker League Premier Division champions Wednesfield Cons A boosted their chances of catching the top two.

Cons won 5-0 to take advantage of defeats for leaders St John's and second-placed Q Bar by demolishing relegation-threatened Aldridge Cons B. Payne set a new high break target for the division with a superb 91.

There were also impressive wins for Simon Groves (43), Tony Davis, Paul Harrison, who rolled in breaks of 31 and 64, and Daniel Ward.

Runaway leaders St John's surrendered several unbeaten records as they went down 3-2 at Q Bar A after racking up a 2-0 lead. It meant a first reverse of the campaign for youngster Jack Harris.

Second-placed Cannock Cons B suffered a 3-2 reverse in a last frame decider at Landywood SC A.

In Division One, second-placed Stafford Road B suffered a surprise 4-1 loss at Golden Cue C.

Leaders' Bentley Moor A took full advantage to go seven points clear with a comfortable 5-0 home victory against Landywood SC B.

Bloxwich Memorial B strengthened their grip on third place and boosted their promotion hopes by whitewashing bottom club Birchills 5-0.

Results – Premier: Aldridge Cons A 4 Ogley Hay 1, Golden Cue A 5 Old Hall 0, Landywood SC A 3 Cannock Cons B 2, Pelsall Social A 4 Victoria A 1, Q Bar A 3 ST John's SC 2, Stafford Road A 3 Fistley Park 2, Wednesfield Cons A 5 Aldridge Cons B 0.

Division One: Aldridge Cons C 2 Darlaston Cons 3, Birchills 0 Bloxwich Memorial B 5, Essington WMC 1 Wednesfield Cons B 4, Golden Cue C 4 Stafford Road B 1, Lichfield Road BC 2 Bentley Moor B 3, Victoria B 2 Athenaeum Club 3, Bentley Moor A 5 Landywood SC B 0, Norton Vic 1 Q Bar B 4.

Dennant earns an automatic PDC tour card

WALSALL'S Matt Dennant has won a Professional Darts Corporation tour card.

Following four days of play in Qualifying School, which attracted 400 entries from players worldwide, 16 players won automatic Tour Cards to secure a coveted spot on the PDC ProTour.

Dennant, from Blakenall, was among a further 14 awarded tour cards for topping the PDC Qualifying School Order Of Merit, with ranking points having been awarded based on finishing positions across the four days. Dennant was in joint 10th place.

These players have booked their place on the PDC circuit for 2016-2017.

It brings the pool of ProTour professionals up to 128, with Dennant able to compete in the 20 Players Championship events – each with £75,000 in prize money – during this year.

Dennant, known as "The Scholar" was a PDC Challenge Tour England winner in 2013.

Win chance to take on darts pros

ASPIRING throwers can win the chance to play the pros in 'the FA Cup of darts' for the price of a pint – with two places on offer per event.

Wolverhampton's Rileys Sports Bar, in Broad Street, will stage two open qualifiers with the grand prize spots at the PDC's UK Open.

The Wolverhampton Rileys events take place on Saturday and again on February 20.

Anybody aged 16 or over (on January 1) can compete in the qualifiers, but entry is not accepted on the day. The online cut-off is 48 hours before the event at www.rileys.co.uk/tournaments

Entry is just £6, including a free drink. There is a strict dress code of trousers, shoes and either a shirt or polo shirt. Those part of last week's PDC's Qualifying School can't enter.

Skeete shooting for Sam's crowns

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington will defend his British and Commonwealth titles for a second time in Birmingham against new foe Bradley Skeete on March 5.

Promoter Eddie Hearn won the purse bids to stage the contest at the Barclaycard Arena under his Matchroom Boxing banner, with Skeete guided by Frank Warren.

Eggington climbed off the canvas in the second round to retain his crowns at the same venue by outpointing Dale Evans last October.

The 22-year-old is now looking to within one fight of a Lonsdale belt, with his final test likely to be vacated champion Frankie Gavin. Skeete's only pro defeat came to Gavin for the same honours in November 2014, but he's since rebuilt his career with four straight wins.

The Londoner's WBO European title won't be on the line, though, nor will Eggington's WBC International Silver strap.

Essington's Ben Wilkes is confirmed for the under-card and faces a tough test in a 10-round final eliminator for the English middleweight title against Peterborough's Cello Renda, aged 30, who has twice reached the Prizefighter final and chal-

Boxing

lenged for the English belt and was one half of the famous 'double knockdown' with Paul Samuels in 2009.

Wilkes admits he is the underdog, having spent five years out of the sport before returning this year, but has 10 wins, with just one defeat.

The 29-year-old, who has never been past six rounds, said: "He's a big name and it's a fight I fancied, wherever it took place. To have it on such a big bill is a bonus, really, and I want to shine.

"On paper, even to those who know boxing, it looks like an easy night's work for him, but I wouldn't be in there if I didn't think I could beat him.

"All the pressure is on him. If he beats me, it's the expected result and, if he loses, he'll be back to the drawing board."

Two other title fights see Brummie Gamal Yafai challenging for Bobby Jenkinson's newly-won Commonwealth super bantamweight belt. Older brother and reigning British super flyweight champion Kal Yafai will also feature, but his match has yet to be

determined. A battle of Birmingham will see Michael Rooney and Marcus Ffrench meet for the vacant Midlands lightweight crown.

Tickets have already become available for 'Matchroom Fight Pass' members priced at £40, £60, £100 and £150 VIP, from www.theticketfactory.com

Meanwhile, Dudley's Ryan Aston is preparing for his shot at the big time in London tomorrow night (Friday).

Aston, 24, will undertake his first 12-round when he co-challenges for the vacant IBF International light middleweight title at York Hall.

Unbeaten

Undefeated opponent and co-challenger Ahmet Patterson is the favourite on his own turf, led by promoter Frank Warren whose television channel BoxNation will broadcast the fight live.

The 28-year-old, from East Dulwich, has already lifted the English and Southern area titles at welterweight. He's unbeaten in 16, with six stoppages. Aston and Patterson serve as chief support on the card, with Ryan Walsh defending his British featherweight title for the first time against unbeaten Scot Darren Traynor at the top of the bill.



O'Driscoll: I won't upset team spirit

BOSS Sean O'Driscoll insists he won't upset the harmony in Walsall's dressing room just to make signings this January. The head coach has identified a couple of players he'd be interested in snapping up during the transfer window.

But O'Driscoll believes any player that comes in must be able to fit in with the tight-knit nature of the Saddlers squad. "We have got a really close-knit squad so it's a case of trying to bring the right people in while working within the financial constraints that every club has to work in," he said.

"Things are ongoing. We have toiled with one or two things, it's difficult because if you bring somebody in, somebody else will probably be bumped out of the 18.

"We have to think if that is something we want to do, because everyone here is playing their part.

"I've told them they will continue to play their part so bringing in three or four players would be completely opposite to that.

"We'd like to add but we're not constrained to the transfer window. We haven't got this frenzy of having to get everything done in January because we have the Emergency Loan Window."

O'Driscoll is however, running the rule over Bournemouth midfielder Josh Wakefield by handing him a two-day trial.

The 22-year-old playmaker, who is out of contract with the Cherries at the end of the season, has previously enjoyed loan spells at Torquay United and Yeovil.

O'Driscoll has confirmed that Wakefield will train with the Saddlers as he bids to find himself a new club.

Wakefield has been at Bournemouth since the age of 12 and has appeared three times for the Cherries' first team.

Skipper Chambers focused on going up with Saddlers

SADDLERS skipper Adam Chambers insists he is solely focused on helping Walsall win promotion rather than his own future.

The 35-year-old has enjoyed an outstanding season and, despite being in the twilight of his career, has played in every game so far, but is out of contract at the end of the campaign.

Chambers, whose twin brother James retired last summer, says thoughts on his future are on hold to ensure he stays fully focused on helping Walsall reach the Championship.

"I don't know what is happening with that (new contract) but I am enjoying my time here," he said.

"I'm just focused on playing my football at the moment and doing everything I can to help the team be successful. We believe we have a great chance of winning promotion. Next season is a long time away so I'm just focused on the second half of the season."

Meanwhile, Walsall have confirmed their League One fixture at Doncaster Rovers will now take place on Tuesday, February 2.

Battling qualities hailed by Taylor

DEFENDER Andy Taylor believes the manner of Walsall's victory over Bury shows they have the fight needed to win automatic promotion.

An outstanding first-half performance saw the Saddlers romp into a 3-0 lead at Gigg Lane on Saturday, only for the game to then turn on its head when Leon Clarke scored twice inside a minute midway through the second half.

But despite the Shakers suddenly having the wind in their sails, as well as a passionate home crowd behind them, Sean O'Driscoll's side dug deep to hang on.

And Taylor believes halting that momentum is something all Walsall's players should be proud

Football

of. "It would have been easy to crumble, having conceded two goals in a minute," he said. "But we calmed it down. The senior lads got our heads together and we saw the game out really well."

Taylor believes to win promotion a side needs to be able to play good attacking, football and be able able to grind out results.

"As a team, we do pride ourselves on the way we play," he said.

"We try to play the right way - possession football and being attacking. But when we need to

dig in and make sure of the result we can do that as well."

The result saw the Saddlers move back into the automatic promotion places in League One with O'Driscoll's side a point better off than third-placed Gillingham with the benefit of a game in hand.

But Taylor insists there is no chance of Walsall's players getting carried away.

"We know there is a points tally that you need to hit.

"The reality is Bury is just one game. It doesn't matter if you are in the automatics in January, you have to be in them in May."

HOSTS SHAKEN BY SADDLERS

Bury 2 Walsall 3

WHEN it comes to winning football matches confidence is king.

And at Bury's Gigg Lane on Saturday, you could practically see, sense and touch the invisible quality following this pulsating match.

Entering the game, the form book predicted only one winner with Walsall having lost just once in their last six outings, while Dave Flitcroft's Shakers had fallen to defeats in their previous three League One fixtures.

So when Walsall quickly took charge of a first half played under a drizzling of snow it came as no surprise.

Sean O'Driscoll's side took the lead in fortunate circumstances when Chris Hussey comically turned Andy Taylor's cross past his own keeper.

Passing the ball around sweetly in triangles, it came as no surprise when Tom Bradshaw doubled Walsall's lead. Then Anthony Forde made it 3-0 with an outstanding goal all of his own making.

There seemed little on when the Irishman collected the ball standing so wide on the right he was collecting chalk on his boots. But he tricked his way past Hussey, burst into the box and then curled a wonderful strike into the far corner.

Attacking

Things had got so bad for Flitcroft's men that he made his first substitution in the 37th minute and his second at the break. Both saw attacking players come on with John O'Sullivan and Danny Rose introduced for the defensive Joe Riley and ineffective Jacob Mellis.

Then suddenly, in the 65th minute, the game completely turned on its head.

Andy Taylor gave the ball away, allowing O'Sullivan to cross and Leon Clarke to tap home from close range. And within 60 seconds it was 3-2 with Clarke again finishing from close range.

The home side should have levelled when Clarke busted his way through and hit a shot which cannoned off the post.

The loose ball fell to Danny Mayor, yet inexplicably the current League Two player the year fired over with the goal gaping.

It all ended up being a lot more nerve-wracking than anyone thought possible. But Walsall crucially held on.

Charity wins in rugby game



Willenhall captain Simon Steed, of Walsall, left, and Pilgrim Bandits captain Ken Dowding

A RUGBY match featuring ex-military personnel and Willenhall veterans raised nearly £4,000 for charity.

The game at Willenhall Rugby Club saw the cash donated to the Pilgrim Bandits Charity, after a Military Select XV came out on top 33-12 against the Willenhall Veterans.

Former Paratrooper Dave Bentley, 31, from the Staffordshire branch of the charity, said he was delighted by the support shown for the cause.

The charity hit the headlines recently when one of its patrons - West Midlands Ambulance paramedic Ben Parkinson MBE - kayaked down the Yukon river in Canada. Pilgrim Ban-

bits looks after wounded members of the armed forces, and emergency services, helping them in their rehab.

Mr Bentley said: "It was all for a great cause. The charity pushes the lads and ladies to get involved with expeditions, parachuting and kayaking to give them more confidence.

"There was a team of soldiers from around the country - both former and still serving - taking on former players from Willenhall.

"Then after the game we had a raffle, a barbecue and a prize auction. In the evening we all dressed as superheroes which was a bit of fun.

"Around 300 people turned out which was great - I'm chuffed."

Brawl forces ref to call end to play

WALSALL Rugby Clubs's visit to Hereford proved to be an eventful affair. They arrived at the Weyside to find the main pitch frozen in patches.

It was decided, after prolonged discussion and surface inspections, to play on the adjacent, grassier pitch.

Forty minutes of rugby followed in which Walsall put up a terrific display and should have scored a couple of tries. It proved to be an entertaining half with both teams looking to run with the ball. The visitors set up several promising attacking positions but failed to take advantage of some good lineup positions in particular. Nearly 30 minutes had been played before the hosts managed to get within 10 metres of the Walsall line. The visitors had been defending well and stopped the lineup drive, but a cross-field kick was dislodged from a Walsall player's hands and pounced upon for a converted try.

The half came to an end with Walsall flanker Halil Gozlikucuk making a terrific tackle to stop a certain Hereford try.

Early in the second half No 8 Jeffrey Williamson was through for the score but was recalled because of a tackler being blocked. Walsall were beginning to look more and more threatening and were creating more chances.

The confidence was high of a rare away win. But with only eight minutes played in the second half the referee decided to abandon the match. It came after a rather 'unsavoury' incident occurred which forced his decision. Some illegal use of the boot was used in a ruck and the Walsall players were quick to react to defend their team mate. This resulted in a brawl involving the forwards.

The referee issued a red card to a player from each team and then decided that after such an outbreak to abandon the game without a definite result.

By George - spell was good for club

HEAD coach Sean O'Driscoll hopes George Evans' successful loan at Walsall will help the club attract more players.

The 21-year-old was surprisingly recalled by parent club Manchester City just hours before the Saddlers' 3-2 win at League One rivals Bury on Saturday. Evans is believed to have at least four offers from Championship clubs on the table.

"It was almost inevitable George would leave," said O'Driscoll. "Walsall have put him in the shop window and everyone at the club is delighted for him.

"Hopefully the reputation of Walsall will be enhanced."

★★★

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